101st Congress, 1st Session - - - - - - - - - - House Document 101-16

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
67th NATIONAL CONVENTION

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE NATIONAL ADJUTANT, DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

TRANSMITTING

THE REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ORGANIZATIONS 67TH NATIONAL CONVENTION, INCLUDING A REPORT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1986, PURSUANT TO TITLE 36, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 901, TITLE 44, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 1332, AND SECTION 3 OF PUBLIC LAW 88-504

JANUARY 3, 1989.—Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed, with illustrations

---

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
92-203 WASHINGTON : 1989

H760-1

Section 1332, Title 44, United States Code

NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT OF VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS; PROCEEDINGS PRINTED ANNUALLY FOR CONGRESS

The proceedings of the national encampments of the United Spanish War Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, The American Legion, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Veterans of World War I of the United States, Inc., the Disabled American Veterans, and the AMVETS (American Veterans of World War II), respectively, shall be printed annually, with accompanying illustrations, as separate House documents of the session of the Congress to which they may be submitted. (Public Law 96-260, October22, 1968, 82 Stat. 1270.)

CONTENTS

Sunday Morning Joint Opening Session:

Page
Call to Order, Commander Gene A. Murphy 1
Welcoming Remarks:
Oliver E. Meadows, Convention Chairman 2
Annette Strauss, Mayor 3
Report of National Commander Murphy 5
Introduction of National Officers 9
Report of DAVA Commander Pearson 10
Introduction of DAVA National Officers 13
Presentation: Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year 14
Presentation: George H. Seal Memorial Award 17
Membership Award 19
Reenlistment Ceremony 24
Recess 25
Monday Morning Business Session:
Call to Order, Commander Gene A. Murphy 26
Credentials Committee Report 26
Adopt Rules 27
Adopt Policy 28
The Honorable G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery 28
General Thomas K. Turnage 35
Report: Charles E. Joeckel, Jr. 43
Recess 99
Monday Afternoon Business Session:
Call to Order, Commander Gene Murphy 99
Presentations by Ronald W. Drach National Employment Director 100
Report by National Finance Committee 104
Report by DAV Vietnam Veterans National Memorial Board President 125
Convention Committee Reports:
Constitution and Bylaws, First Reading 127
Committee on Employment 130
General Resolutions Committee 142
Veterans Rights Committee 149
National Security and Americanism 151
Medical Services Committee 153
Finance and Dues Committee 161
Membership and Volunteer Service 162
Recess 164
Tuesday Morning Business Session:
Call to Order, Commander Gene A. Murphy 164
Convention Committee Reports:
Partial Credentials Report 164
Legislation Committee Report 165
National Service Foundation Report 188
Remarks: Harry Walters 204
Final Report of Constitution and Bylaws Committee 205
Introduction: Imperial Council, National Order of Trench Rats 219
Recess 223
Thursday Morning Business Session:
Call to Order, Commander Gene A. Murphy 223
Presentation: Commanders and Adjutants Association 223
Presentations 224
Presentation: National Order of Trench Rats 226
Final Credentials Committee Report 229
Committee on Nomination of National Officers and Election Process 230

Page

Thursday Morning Business Session—Continued
  Incoming Commander's Remarks 235
  Remarks of Incoming Officers 239
  Resolution of Appreciation to VA Medical Center in Dallas 242
  Reading of Newly Elected National Executive Committee Members 243
  Adjournment 244

INDEX OF MOTIONS

Motion	Page	Action	Page
Adoption of Rules	27	Carried	27
Adoption of Policy	28	Carried	28
Approve Adjutant's Report	9	Carried	9
To Admit into Record List of Delegates and Alternates	47	Carried	47
To Accept Report of Finance Committee	106	Carried	106
To Accept Report of Vietnam Veterans National Memorial Board President	126	Carried	126
To Move Adoption of Resolutions of Employment Committee	132	Carried	133
To Adopt Resolution of General Resolutions Committee	146	Carried	146
Adopt Resolutions of Veterans Rights Committee	151	Carried	151
Adopt Resolutions of National Security and Americanism Committee	153	Carried	153
To Approve Resolutions of Medical Services Committee	155	Carried	155
To Approve Report of Finance and Dues Committee	163	Carried	163
To Approve Report of Membership and Volunteer Services Committee	163	Carried	163
To Adopt Legislation Committee Resolutions	169	Carried	169
To Discharge Legislation Committee	169	Carried	169
To Accept National Service Foundation Report	197	Carried	197
To Read Resolutions in Toto before Voting	209	Carried	210
To Accept Resolutions as submitted by Constitution and Bylaws Committee	219	Carried	220
To Suspend Rules	230	Carried	230
To Accept Credentials Committee Report	231	Carried	232
To Adopt Report of Nominations Committee and Discharge Committee	232	Carried	232
To Suspend Rules and Elect Billy E. Kirby as National Commander	235	Carried	235
To Cast Unanimous Ballot	236	Carried	237
To Discharge Credentials Committee	237	Carried	237
To Accept Resolution	244	Carried	244
To Adjourn	245	Adjourn	245

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Disabled American Veterans,
Cincinnati, OH, November 7, 1988.

Hon. Jim Wright,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Dear Mr. Speaker: As business manager of the Disabled American Veterans, and as secretary of its National Convention, I hereby certify as to the authenticity of the reports and the proceedings of our National Convention, held in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988, and submit them to you through the office of this organization located in Washington, D.C., pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 186 of the 72nd Congress, as amended, to be printed as a House document in accordance with the authorization of section 1332 of title 44, United States Code.

The enclosed National Convention proceedings include as independent audit report of all receipts and expenditures as of December 31, 1987, as required by the provisions of section 3 of Public Law 88–504, approved August 30, 1964.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles E. Joeckle, Jr.,
National Adjutant.

NATIONAL OFFICERS

1988–89

National Commander

Billy E. Kirby, P.O. Box 306
Clifton, Texas 76634

Senior Vice Commander

Vernon V. Cardosi, 18 River View Avenue
Saugus, Massachusetts 01906

First Junior Vice Commander

Joseph E. Andry, 2078 Rosebery Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43220

Second Junior Vice Commander

Cleveland Jordan, 242 Emerson Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Third Junior Vice Commander

Harry J. Coyle, 1236 Hellerman Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19111

Fourth Junior Vice Commander

Gregory C. Reed, 1245 Terry Drive
Plainfield, Indiana 46168

National Judge Advocate

Stan Pealer, 3627 Kossuth Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63107

National Chaplain

Rev. Carl E. Bergstrom, 19 Davidson Road
Framingham, Massachusetts 01701

Past National Commander

Gene A. Murphy, 1605 Valley Drive
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

National Executive Committee

First district: Frank B. Shumski, 289 Dean Street, Norwood, Massachusetts 02062
Second district: Prospero Sodano, 5110 Avenue "S", Brooklyn, New York 11234
Third district: Thomas D. Tucci, 224 Strawberry Field Road, Warwick, Rhode Island 02886
Fourth district: Roy F. Friedman, 512 Bloomfield Avenue, #2E, Caldwell, New Jersey 07006
Fifth district: Mike Godich, Jr., 1109 California Avenue, McKeesport, Pennsylvania 15131
Sixth district: Harry E. Hughes, Route 4, Box 520, Parkersburg, West Virginia 26101
Seventh district: Forrest G. Kidwell, 9125 78th Place North, Seminole, Florida 34647
Eighth district: Hollis O. Bridges, 312 Daye Street, Madison, Alabama 35758
Ninth district: Billy H. Braswell, P.O. Box 3687, Macon, Georgia 31205
Tenth district: Russell Spalding, 4902 Palmer Hwy., Britton, Michigan 49229
Eleventh district: Beryl U. Ward, 3474 Lambeth Place, Columbus, Ohio 43220
Twelfth district: Desmond C. Fortner, 100 W. Vernon Avenue, Normal, Illinois 61761
Thirteenth district: Gary E. Bergfield, RR #7, Box 282, Connersville, Indiana 47331
Fourteenth district: Roger L. Andal, 1605 Valley Drive, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57105
Fifteenth district: Prezell Frazier, 1530 East 16th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50316
Sixteenth district: Donald J. Pouliot, 3033 Nute Way, San Diego, California 92117
Seventeenth district: Juan T. Urioste, 3312 Valley Haven Court, N.W., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107
Eighteenth district: George Y. Taketa, 9-A West Kawili Street, Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Nineteenth district: Carl E. Chisam, 1215 North Second East, Mountain Home, Idaho 83647
Twentieth district: Armando C. Albarran, 10114 Ironside, San Antonio, Texas 78230
Twenty-first district: Joe T. Steward, 203 Michelle, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71602

D.A.V.
NATIONA

Billy E. Kirby, National Commander

Disabled American Veterans, 1988–89

GENE A. MURPHY, NATIONAL COMMANDER

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, 1987–88

NATIONAL OFFICERS

1987–88

National Commander

Gene A. Murphy, 1605 Valley Drive
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57105

Senior Vice Commander

Billy E. Kirby, P.O. Box 306
Clifton, Texas 76634

First Junior Vice Commander

Vernon V. Cardosi, 18 River View Avenue
Saugus, Massachusetts 01906

Second Junior Vice Commander

Joseph E. Andry, 2078 Rosebery Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43220

Third Junior Vice Commander

Cleveland Jordan, 242 Emerson Street, NW.
Washington, D.C. 20011

Fourth Junior Vice Commander

Harry J. Coyle, 1236 Hellerman Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19111

National Judge Advocate

Boniface R. Maile, 2725 Cadillac Tower
Detroit, Michigan 48226

National Chaplain

Rev. Carl E. Bergstrom, 19 Davidson Road
Framingham, Massachusetts 01701

Past National Commander

Kenneth G. Musselmann, 17381 Rob Roy Circle
Huntington Beach, California 92647

National Executive Committee

First district: Frank B. Shumski, 289 Dean Street, Norwood, Massachusetts 02062
Second district: Frank J. Fantanza, 21 Bayberry Drive, Rochester, New York 14609
Third district: Thomas D. Tucci, 224 Strawberry Field Road, Warwick, Rhode Island 02886
Fourth district: William J. Stockell, 199 Thames Street, New London, Connecticut 06103
Fifth district: Mike Godich, Jr., 1109 California Avenue, McKeesport, Pennsylvania 15131
Sixth district: John Rodriguez, C-4 Urb. Los Angeles, Carolina, Puerto Rico 00630
Seventh district: Forrest G. Kidwell, 9125 78th Place North, Seminole, Florida 34647
Eighth district: Bennie F. Covington, 464 Queen Theresa Lane, Jackson, Mississippi 39209
Ninth district: Billy H. Braswell, P.O. Box 3687, Macon, Georgia 31205
Tenth district: John T. Griffin, 4153 Vincent Road, North Street, Michigan 48049
Eleventh district: Beryl U. Ward, 3474 Lambeth Place, Columbus, Ohio 43220
Twelfth district: Clarence Stoel, 1984 Rambling Rose Road, Waukesha, Wisconsin 53186
Thirteenth district: Gregory C. Reed, 1245 Terry Drive, Plainfield, Indiana 46168
Fourteenth district: Jack Hilleboe, Box 144-A, Lake Park, Minnesota 56554
Fifteenth district: Prezell Frazier, 1530 East 16th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50316
Sixteenth district: Parker B. Rice, 2560 Francisco Avenue, Santa Rosa, California 95401
Seventeenth district: Juan T. Urioste, 3312 Valley Haven Court, N.W., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107
Eighteenth district: Vernon L. Duke 172 Madge Lane, Las Vegas, Nevada 89110
Nineteenth district: Carl E. Chisam, 1215 North Second East, Mountain Home, Idaho 83647
Twentieth district: Charles A. Altman, 4222 Big Meadows, San Antonio, Texas 78230
Twenty-first district: Joe T. Steward, 203 Michelle, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71602

National Finance Committee

Frank J. Fantanza, Chairman, 21 Bayberry Drive, Rochester, New York 14609
Gene A. Murphy, 1605 Valley Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57105
Billy H. Braswell, P.O. Box 3687, Macon, Georgia 31205
John T. Griffin, 4153 Vincent Road, North Street, Michigan 48049
Juan T. Urioste, 3312 Valley Haven Court, N.W., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS

1921–22: Robert S. Marx, Cincinnati, Ohio (deceased 1960).
1922–23: C. Hamilton Cook, Buffalo, New York (deceased 1935).
1923–24: James A. McFarland, Dalton, Georgia (deceased 1942).
1924–25: Frank J. Irwin, New York, New York (deceased 1942).
1925–26: John W. Mahan, Bozeman, Montana (deceased 1947).
1926–27: John V. Clinnin, Chicago, Illinois (deceased 1955).
1927–28: William E. Tate, Atlanta, Georgia (deceased 1949).
1928–29: Millard W. Rice, Minneapolis, Minnesota (deceased 1980).
1929–30: William J. Murphy, Santa Ana, California (deceased 1931).
1930–31: H. H. Weimer, Chicago, Illinois (deceased 1955).
1931–32: E. Claude Babcock, Washington, D.C. (deceased 1958).
1932–33: William Conley, Los Angeles, California (deceased 1941).
1933–34: Joe W. McQueen, Kansas City, Missouri (deceased 1969).
1934–35: Volney P. Mooney, Jr., Los Angeles, California (deceased 1945).
1935–36: Marvin A. Harlan, El Paso, Texas (deceased 1970).
1936–37: M. Froome Barbour, Cincinnati, Ohio (deceased 1985).
1937–38: Maple T. Harl, Denver, Colorado (deceased 1957).
1938–39: Owen Galvin, Minneapolis, Minnesota (deceased 1956).
1939–40: Lewis J. Murphy, South Bend, Indiana (deceased 1966).
1940–41: Vincent E. Schoeck, Detroit, Michigan (deceased 1966).
August 16, 1941–August 15, 1943: Lawrence R. Melton, Dallas, Texas (deceased 1978).
August 15, 1943–September 20, 1943: William J. Dodd, Jersey City, New Jersey (deceased 1957).
1943–44: James L. Monnahan, Minneapolis, Minnesota (deceased 1980).
1944–45: Milton D. Cohn, Buffalo, New York (deceased 1968).
1945–46: Dow V. Walker, Newport, Oregon (deceased 1957).
1946–47: Lloyd F. Oleson, Ventura, California (deceased 1982).
1947–48: John L. Golob, Hibbing, Minnesota (deceased 1976).
1948–49: Jonathan M. Wainwright, San Antonio, Texas (deceased 1953).
1949–50: David M. Brown, Akron, Ohio (deceased 1982).
1950–51: Boniface R. Maile, Grosse Pointe, Michigan.
1951–52: Ewing W. Mays, Little Rock, Arkansas.
1952–53: Floyd L. Ming, Bakersfield, California (deceased 1975).
1953–54: Howard W. Watts, Indianapolis, Indiana (deceased 1977).
1954–55: Alfred L. English, Shelbyville, Tennessee (deceased 1987).
1955–56: Melvin J. Maas, Chevy Chase, Maryland (deceased 1964).
1956–57: Joseph F. Burke, Bayonne, New Jersey (deceased 1970).
1957–58: Paul E. Frederick, Jr., Cincinnati, Ohio.
1958–59: David B. Williams, Boston, Massachusetts.
1959–60: Bill H. Fribley, Crestline, Kansas.
1960–61: William O. Cooper, Dallas, Texas.
1961–62: Francis R. Buono, Whitestone, New York (deceased 1977).
1962–63: Peter L. Dye, Denver, Colorado.
1963–64: Douglas H. McGarrity, Allen Park, Michigan (deceased 1986).
1964–65: William G. Dwyer, San Diego, California (deceased 1982).
1965–66: Claude L. Callegary, Baltimore, Maryland.
1966–67: John W. Unger, Sr., Danville, Illinois (deceased 1970).
1967–68: Francis J. Beaton, Fargo, North Dakota (deceased 1969).
1968–69: Wayne L. Sheirbon, Seattle, Washington.
1969–70: Raymond P. Neal, Daly City, California.
1970–71: Cecil W. Stevenson, Jonesboro, Arkansas.
1971–72: Edward T. Conroy, Bowie, Maryland (deceased 1982).
1972–73: Jack O. Hicks, Larue, Ohio.

1973–74: John T. Soave, Detroit, Michigan (deceased 1984).
1974–75: Walter T. Greaney, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts.
1975–76: Lyle C. Pearson, North Mankato, Minnesota.
1976–77: Frank J. Randazzo, East Meadow, New York.
1977–78: Oliver E. Meadows, Godley, Texas.
1978–79: Billy O. Hightower, Grand Junction, Colorado.
1979–80: Paul L. Thompson, Baltimore, Maryland.
1980–81: Stan Pealer, Holts Summit, Missouri.
1981–82: Sherman E. Roodzant, Santa Ana, California.
1982–83: Edward G. Galian, New York, New York.
1983–84: Dennis A. Joyner, Apollo, Pennsylvania.
1984–85: Chad Colley, Barling, Arkansas.
1985–86: Albert H. Linden, Jr., Camp Springs, Maryland.
1986–87: Kenneth G. Musselmann, Huntington Beach, California.
1987–88: Gene A. Murphy, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 67th NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, HELD AT DALLAS, TX

JOINT OPENING SESSION

July 24-28, 1988

The National Executive Committee meeting of the Disabled American Veterans convened on Sunday, July 24, 1988, commencing at 1:00 o'clock p.m., in the Chantilly Ballroom of the Loews Anatole Hotel, Dallas, Texas, and was called to order by National Commander Gene A. Murphy.

Commander GENE A. MURPHY. I now call to order the 67th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans.

Charles E. Joeckel, Jr., National Adjutant, will read the call to convention.

Adjutant CHARLES E. JOECKEL. The Constitution and Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans state that the supreme legislative powers of this organization shall be vested in an annual national convention composed of the national officers and representatives of the state departments and chapters.

In accordance with these directives, I, Charles E. Joeckel, Jr., National Adjutant, declare the 67th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans to be convened at Dallas, Texas, at 1:00 p.m., July 24th, 1988.

Consideration and disposition of business brought before this convention shall be conducted in accordance with the National Constitution and Bylaws now in force, and such rules as the Convention may adopt.

Commander MURPHY. Please present the colors.

[Presentation of Colors, and playing of National Anthem.]

Commander MURPHY. Will the audience please join me in giving the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, to our country.

[Pledge of Allegiance.]

Commander MURPHY. We will dismiss the Color Guard. [Applause.]

We will call on Reverend Carl Bergstrom, National Chaplain, for the invocation.

Chaplain CARL E. BERGSTROM. Let us pray. Eternal Lord and Heavenly Father, we come before you again with grateful hearts that we may gather together in public assembly, that we may have the freedom of worship, and the freedom to gather together to do those things which we must do in your name, for the good of our organization, and for the benefit of our country.

We remember especially those who are absent from us this day, our loved ones, some of whom for whom this world is no longer large enough to contain their spirits, and even now they are at rest with Thee.

We pray, also, for those who are missing in action, and may still be prisoners of war. Bless and keep them and their families who continue to wait.

Bless the Disabled American Veterans and its Auxiliary and the work we do for the disabled veteran, his widow and his orphan, now and always. Amen.

Commander **MURPHY**. Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in thanking the Ceremonial Band of the Eighth Air Force Band from Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana. [Applause.]

I would also like to thank the members of the Color Guard, which is from Carswell Air Force Base, Texas. Please give them your thanks. [Applause.]

I would like to introduce our convention chairman, Oliver Meadows. With over 20 years on the House Veterans Affairs Committee staff, Oliver retired as staff director in 1976.

That summer he was elected as the DAV's national senior vice commander, becoming national commander the following year. Many see the Texas rancher as America's foremost expert on veterans' legislation.

Longtime House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman "Tiger" Teague once said, "I cannot think of any one individual who knows more about veterans' benefits and the attendant laws than does Oliver Meadows."

His stewardship of these benefits reflects great credit on his devotion to his job and his understanding of those involved in the writing and administering of these laws.

After graduating from Texas A&M in 1942, Oliver began military service as an officer with the 44th infantry division. He served in France and Germany from 1942 to 1947. He retired with the rank of captain as the result of wounds that sent him to military hospitals.

After World War II, he immediately began his life-long work on behalf of veterans. Today we depend on him as one of the most trusted advisors of the DAV's national officers and staff.

He's a real asset to our organization and all of the veterans we serve. We are very grateful to him. Oliver. [Applause.]

Mr. **OLIVER MEADOWS**. My fellow DAV members, it's a great privilege to be able to welcome you to Dallas. And right at the outset I must tell you I had marvelous help in welcoming you here.

The DAV has some characteristics in common with the City of Dallas. We know who does the work. We know who makes things move. You know we've long since known in the DAV it's the ladies, the Auxiliary, and women that must be involved when something has to happen. [Applause.]

The people of Dallas have figured that thing out, too, and they have elected a lady to lead this dynamic city. She has all of the problems in leading a city that go with a big, moving city. But she handles these problems with grace and distinction and style, and she's taken her afternoon off to come and extend us welcome.

I appreciate this marvelous help in letting you know how much we welcome you here in Dallas. And I introduce to you Mayor Annette Strauss, the Mayor of Dallas. [Applause.]

Mayor **ANNETTE STRAUSS**. Thank you, Convention Chairman Meadows, for that kind introduction. And thank you for that very warm welcome.

DAV National Commander Murphy, DAV Auxiliary Commander Pearson, officers and members of the DAV and its Auxiliary: I bring you greetings today from a city that loves our veterans.

We in Dallas think you are very, very special people. And I really don't think I am exaggerating one bit when I say that I can say the same thing for the whole state of Texas.

As a Texan, I know how Texans feel about the men and women who have served our country in our armed forces. We love you all. And we particularly love and appreciate and respect our country's disabled veterans. You have made immense sacrifices for all of us in America. And we know why you did that. We know you did it because you knew that someone had to pay the price for freedom.

So without you and without what you have done, the American dream would stand no chance of becoming a reality for our nation's people.

So if we owe a debt to America's veterans we owe a very special debt to those of you who became disabled in America's wars.

And our feelings about you have much to do with our commitment to serving handicapped people in the City of Dallas. Disabled veterans, many from your organization, have joined with other handicapped people to demand change in our society and its institutions. You want equal opportunity in the job market, and that's only fair. You fought, and you gave so much in defense of our economic system, so it's only right that you should get an even break in pursuit of economic opportunity.

In Dallas, we try to translate that concept into reality. Next month, on August 17th, the Dallas office of handicapped services will host a job fair for our handicapped citizens, and I invite the participation of the DAV members.

My office and that of all the City Council continues to work for handicapped accessibility. We have made some important changes in city ordinances, and in building codes. But we realize that we need to do more. We cannot let you down, because if we were to fail you, then we would fail greatly.

Again, let me just say to you how very much our city welcomes you.

You know, we welcome all visitors to our city, but we extend a very special one to you, the Disabled American Veterans. And if there's anything we can do to make you feel right at home, to make your stay with us more enjoyable, just know that we are there to do so. My office is open to you.

And one thing I want to leave you with is that as happy as we are to have you here, it will make us even happier if you come back, if you visit us often, and if you do that soon.

Thank you very much for having me. And God bless you all. [Applause.]

Mr. **MEADOWS**. Now you can see whether we know how to pick them or not.

Commander Murphy, in the ceremony this morning, the memorial service, the singer, one of the national committeemen, did a little tribute to P. D. Jackson. But I couldn't pass up the opportunity to remind our friends here at this convention, this is the hometown of P. D. Jackson, the late P. D. Jackson, and I think I am safe in saying that he was the most fervent, passionate member of the DAV that I ever knew. And a great friend. [Applause.]

It takes lots of people to make things happen, and I want to express appreciation as your convention chairman to Bill Bone, our Texas department commander; Evelyn Schilling, our DAV Auxiliary commander, and I want to remind you that we are the home of some past national commanders here: Katherine Early, Betty Hall, Past National Commander Bill Cooper.

And I want to recognize the efforts of my co-chairman, my co-chairperson, Dovie Hawkins, who looked after the convention for the Auxiliary.

We welcome you to Dallas and we welcome the opportunity to dispel a few myths about Texas. We knew if we could get you here that we could send you away enlightened about the great state of Texas.

You know, being the biggest and the greatest is a burden to bear. We have all of these things that are said about us, like, You can see further and see less in Texas than anyplace else in the Union.

Or that we have got more cows and less milk than any other state in the Union. Or that there really wouldn't have been a Texas had there been a back door to the Alamo.

Now, this is the kind of stuff that we put up with. And I know if we get you here we will show you that it really, really isn't that way.

Texas is the only state in the Union that was a republic for ten years. From 1836 to '46 we were a nation alone. Following that, we joined the Union, and have been a proud state ever since.

But I'll bet you didn't know that we have really been rather kind to you.

Texas, when it entered the Union, maintained the right to split itself up and create five separate states of Texas. Now, we didn't inflict that on you. You have only had to put up with one.

But we can at any time, at the slightest provocation, break ourselves up into five states of Texas.

I did want to straighten one thing out that is not well known, an historical item that is not well known. I think our friends from Virginia know this but they don't tell it. A lot of people think that George Washington was born in Virginia, and is a product of Virginia, which is not really true. It's not historically true.

George Washington was born in Texas. [Laughter.] And his father settled here, and young George was born here. And the epidsode about the cherry tree really did happen, only it wasn't a cherry tree. It was a Mesquite tree. [Laughter.] And all this story that you have heard, little George chopping down his father's favorite Mesquite tree with his little hatchet really did happen.

So he chopped the tree down. His father discovered the tree, and George said, "Yes, Father, I cannot tell a lie, I chopped down your Mesquite tree."

And George's father said to George, "Well, George, if you can't tell a lie, there's no place for you here in Texas, and we'll just move to Virginia." [Laughter and applause.]

Now, certain things have to happen and, you know, there's a certain sequence and order of things that have to happen in these conventions. Now, the very first of those is that the national commander has to be made an honorary citizen of Texas. The Governor of Texas sent a nice letter to you, Commander. You know he's had a little illness and is in the hospital now, but he has sent you a proper designation as an honorary Texas citizen. That's number one.

Commander MURPHY. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr. MEADOWS. The second thing is that you have to have a Texas hat. [Applause.]

Now, Commander, there's a lot of talk and a lot of protocol about the wearing of the hat. And a lot of it is erroneous. Now, there's two things I want to assure you of. It's not necessary for you to wear your hat in the shower, nor must you wear it when you're making love. [Laughter.]

It's a great pleasure to be your convention chairman. We welcome you here to Dallas. We hope you have a good time and wish everyone a pleasant, happy, safe journey home. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Commander MURPHY. Thank you very much, Oliver. I know he's an outstanding convention chairman, and I know we are going to have a super time in Dallas.

At this time I will turn the chair over to Senior Vice Billy Kirby.

[Whereupon, Senior Vice-Commander Billy E. Kirby assumed the chair.]

Senior Vice-Commander BILLY KIRBY. Thank you, Commander. Delegates of the 67th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans and Auxiliary, ladies and gentlemen and guests: It's an honor and privilege for me to introduce the next speaker to you. Time and again over the past year, the DAV has faced serious issues. Cabinet-level status for the VA, judicial review of veterans claims, and much more.

As our organization has dealt with these questions, we needed a leader whose strength of character would never flinch. We needed a man with deep courage, whose convictions would carry him through any confrontation.

We had such a man in Gene Murphy, our National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans. A paraplegic due to gunshot wounds suffered in Vietnam, he holds the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star with V device.

Gene served in numerous elected positions at the chapter and department level. And in 1984, we honored him as the nation's outstanding disabled veteran of the year. Following that, he began his rise through the chairs in our national organization.

An individual who has been untiring in his efforts on behalf of all disabled veterans, I proudly present to you our National Commander Gene Murphy. [Rising applause.]

Commander MURPHY. Thank you, Billy. Distinguished guests, delegates to the 67th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans and its Auxiliary, friends of the DAV, ladies and gentlemen: I would like to begin the national commander report to you with three simple words. "You did it." [Applause.]

Today those words mean a lot to me. "You did it." And I know they mean a lot to every American disabled veteran and their families. Be it service, membership, volunteer activities, or on the legislative front, you did it.

Last year I came before you in Atlanta and described the goals that I felt our organization must obtain. As your newly-elected national commander, I pledged my best. But I placed responsibility for success squarely on your shoulders. You eagerly assumed that responsibility, and as a result, you did it on Capitol Hill. You beat the bushes for the grass roots support we needed to record important legislative victories. You called on your senators and your representatives. You made sure Congress heard the DAV and heard loud and clear that action was required, and no less than justice was expected.

As a result, on New Year's Day next year, the VA will join the President's Cabinet. [Applause.]

As a result, after more than 40 years of waiting, Atomic veterans will no longer have to wait for the help they earned so long ago.

As a result, you beat back Capitol Hill budget cutters, the Administration's accountants, and the vocal minority of veterans' critics who don't care about your service and your sacrifice.

You did it in your own home towns as well. Last year, I called upon our membership to truly make the DAV Transportation Program a national transportation program.

I described a land in which no sick or elderly or indigent disabled veteran anywhere in America would be denied access to health care. Those men and women would get to their clinic appointments, doctors examinations and therapy sessions because the DAV would get them there.

You heard and heeded my call for action. In the process you exceeded even the most optimistic of expectations.

Today, every single VA medical center in America has or will soon have a DAV hospital service coordinator.

Our membership has responded as well, volunteering their time, their energies, and their resources in record breaking numbers. Unique and badly needed services are being made available through the efforts of the DAV. These are services that America's disabled veterans can't get anywhere else.

All of this has required extraordinary measures of commitment, time and talents.

Yes, you did it. Throughout it all, I have marveled at individual acts of courage and compassion. Everywhere I have traveled this year, I have heard amazing tales of individual sacrifice and personal service. At each chapter and department I visited, those tales are told with pride: The 200-mile drive through a blizzard so an elderly veteran can receive life-saving medical treatment. The all-night vigil beside the bed of a dying man who has no family or friends to ease the pain, the summons to service that comes day and night, rain or shine.

Today, we know it's tougher to get a VA clinical appointment. It's harder to see a doctor or get a prescription filled. The waits are longer, the medical staffs are smaller, and the services are dwindling.

Yet even as we fight these cuts on a national scale, each of us are fighting for the preservation of veterans' dignity on a personal scale. We offer friendship, hope and gratitude to our fellow disabled veterans. We serve them as we served our families and our nation.

Some of us have no legs, but are quick to say, "Lean on me."

Some of us are blind, but are heard to say, "Take my hand, and I will lead the way."

Some of us feel pain, for we are eager to celebrate the joys of being alive and serving others.

Last year you were asked to stand up and be counted, and I'm proud to report each of you stood, and stood tall, for what is truly right and good about the DAV

Today the nation knows, if it didn't know before, that the DAV truly is an organization of disabled veterans helping disabled veterans.

As we look towards the future, it is with certainty that DAV and Auxiliary members are men and women who can say with pride, "We Make It Happen." [Applause.]

We make it happen in a big way, and we are going to keep right on making it happen. I have served as your national commander this year secure in the knowledge that my contribution pales in comparison to that of the individuals who comprise our membership.

I wish I could shake the hand of each of those more than one million members and find the words to express my gratitude for their effort.

I can't do that. But I can express appreciation to them and to the people who have guided, instructed and supported me during my year as your national commander. I have watched with considerable pride this year as the Auxiliary has grown into a dynamic, exciting organization. [Applause.] In large part, the source of the energy has come from its national commander.

Katherine, the year I have served with you has been exciting and challenging. I have been proud to join in partnership with you and the wonderful ladies of the Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary has found itself a champion in Katherine Pearson. In the process, both the Auxiliary and the DAV have been made better organizations as a result of your influence. And I deeply appreciate your leadership and commitment to service. [Applause.]

At this time, I would ask a delegate from Pontiac, Michigan, Chapter 16, join me here at the podium. This individual is a young man. Would Mr. Denvel D. Adams please come forward. [Applause.]

This year one of my saddest duties was to accept the retirement of our National Adjutant Dale Adams. I accepted that retirement only with Dale's assurance that he would continue to provide his special insight and wise counsel to the DAV.

There is nothing really I can say about Dale that all of you don't already know. After serving with him, I can only add, it's all true. The DAV has had no wiser guide than Dale Adams. Disabled veterans have had no more loyal friend or fiercer defender than Dale Adams.

Dale, after more than 25 years as national adjutant, you certainly don't need a wristwatch or a plaque. What I, and all the delegates in this room, would like to give you at this time is really something you already have, the deepest respect and gratitude of more than one million members of the Disabled American Veterans. [Rising applause.]

Past Adjutant **Denvel D. Adams**. Thank you. Gene, I appreciate very much your remarks. I appreciate the thanks expressed by the audience. I want to tell you that the 26 years that I served as national adjutant were probably the greatest thing that could happen to any individual.

I appreciate the thanks. But I have received so much pleasure, so much out of life, by serving as national adjutant, the thanks are anticlimactic, if you will. But I do appreciate them. I hope to be around with you for many years to come. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander **Murphy**. An organization can count itself lucky to have a man at its administrative helm like Dale Adams. The DAV, I believe, has been twice blessed.

To Butch Joeckel I say, We know with certainty you will move the DAV forward with the same spirit, commitment and agressiveness that marked Dale's tenure as our national adjutant. You have our confidence, our support and our gratitude. Each of us look forward to serving at your side for many years to come, Butch. [Applause.]

During the national commander's year in office, the miles he traveled are many; the nights he spends at home are few. For me this year, the miles were made shorter by the realization that my wife Eldine and my daughter Erin waited patiently to welcome me home.

What strength I had, I drew from them at my side. It's been good to be your national commander, but it will be good to get home.

The delegates to the 67th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans, we have completed a banner year of service and advocacy. But even as that year winds down, we must realize our journey is far from over. The facts are these:

The VA health care system is in serious trouble. The VA claims process has slowed to a crawl. VA employees numbers are dwindling. Even as the morale of those remaining employees hits bottom, buildings are crumbling, equipment is failing, and beds are being eliminated.

I leave you with these facts, because it's easy to rest on your laurels, and even easier to fall off.

We are disabled veterans helping disabled veterans. That carries with it a lot of joy, reward and personal satisfaction. But it also carries with it a lifetime commitment.

Doing all in my power to help disabled veterans, that's what I'll do. That's what all of you will do. And we will do it gladly for the rest of our lives. Make no mistake about it.

This year, you really did it, and did it in a big way. But we are going to keep on doing it. We are going to keep on making it happen. We will keep on working and fighting and serving until every single disabled veteran in this land is again a full member of society, enjoying the full measures of those freedoms we fought so valiantly to defend.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. [Rising applause.]

Senior Vice-Commander KIRBY. Thank you, Commander, for the excellent report. And I can assure you that I speak for every member of this organization when I say that we are extremely grateful to you for the outstanding leadership you have provided us this past year.

The chair will entertain a motion we accept the report of the national commander. Motion has been made. Do I hear a second? Motion has been made and seconded.

All in favor say Aye. All opposed. So ordered. Thank you, Commander. [Applause.]

Commander MURPHY. Thank you, Billy.

Now I would like to introduce my line officers. And if you would, can we wait and hold the applause until I have them all introduced?

National Senior Vice-Commander Billy E. Kirby of Texas; 1st Junior Vice-Commander Vernon V. Cardosi of Massachusetts; 2nd Junior Vice-Commander Joseph E. Andry of Ohio; 3rd Junior Vice-Commander Cleveland Jordan of Washington, D.C.; 4th Junior Vice-Commander Harry J. Coyle of Pennsylvania.

National Chaplain Reverend Carl E. Bergstrom of Massachusetts; National Judge Advocate Boniface R. Maile of Michigan.

And a man who gave me a running start at this job, Immediate Past National Commander, Kenneth G. Musselmann of California. [Applause.]

Your National Executive Committee is comprised of the following gentlemen. Again, please hold your applause until I have introduced all of them.

1st District, Frank B. Shumski of Massachusetts; 2nd District, Frank J. Fantanza of New York; 3rd District, Thomas D. Tucci of Rhode Island; 4th District, William J. Stockell of Connecticut; 6th District, John Rodriguez of Puerto Rico; 5th District, Mike Godich, Jr., of Pennsylvania.

7th District, Forrest G. Kidwell of Florida; 8th District, Bennie F. Covington of Mississippi; 9th District, Billy H. Braswell of Georgia; 10th District, John T. Griffin of Michigan; 11th District, Beryl U. Ward of Ohio; 12th District, Clarence Stoel of Wisconsin.

13th District, Gregory C. Reed of Indiana; 14th District, Jack Hilleboe of North Dakota; 15th District, Prezell Frazier of Iowa; 16th District, Parker B. Rice of California.

17th District, Juan T. Urioste of New Mexico; 18th District, Vernon L. Duke of Nevada; 19th District, Carl E. Chisam of Idaho, who is absent due to illness, but represented by his alternate Vern Kalstad.

20th District, Charles Altman of Texas; 21st District, Joe T. Steward of Arkansas.

And of great assistance to me this year was National Chief of Staff Roger Andal of South Dakota, and National Surgeon Doctor Richard F. Kuhn of Michigan.

Please give them a round of applause. [Applause.]

At this time, I would like you to join me in welcoming Katherine Pearson, National Commander of the Auxiliary.

The DAV Auxiliary has just been through a year marked by sweeping change and an overwhelming successful membership drive. During that year, Katherine provided her organization with exactly what was needed: Innovative and strong leadership.

At last year's convention, the women of the Auxiliary formulated several new challenges for their organization. They presented a mandate to build an organization that proudly stands side by side the DAV as a full partner.

Embracing that vision, Katherine led the Auxiliary's women as they performed beyond all expectations on many fronts. This is particularly true in membership, where the Auxiliary achieved more than anyone could have dreamed.

I think Katherine will have something to say about these Auxiliary successes, and I personally congratulate her.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in a great round of applause for Katherine Pearson, National Commander of the DAV Auxiliary. [Rising applause.]

Commander **KATHERINE PEARSON**. Thank you, National Commander Gene Murphy, for those very kind words of introduction.

Over the past year, Gene, I have really had fun working with you. I have come to know the kind of man you are. And that's the very best kind of man the DAV can offer.

I believe the DAV has been truly blessed to have a man like you in its highest office.

If the DAV has been blessed, so have you. The ladies in your life, your wife Eldine and your daughter Erin, are to be commended for graciously lending you to the DAV for the past year. We all thank them for their sacrifice. I have come to know them well, and I am proud to count them in the ranks of our Auxiliary.

Officers and staff of the Disabled American Veterans, the Disabled American Veterans Women's Auxiliary, members of the National Executive Committees, and all of the delegates and alternates to this national convention of the DAV and Auxiliary:

As I stand at this podium today, I can't help but recall standing at the Auxiliary podium last year, and projected the women's Auxiliary programs and projects for the coming year.

In a very real sense, at that point in time, I saw the women of the Auxiliary call their organization to its destiny. We have heard a summons of bold new initiatives in membership. We were called to develop a fresh, new vision of Auxiliary service. We were invited to share an exciting new partnership with the DAV. And we are challenged to adapt an entirely new attitude toward ourselves, toward the DAV Auxiliary.

Ladies and gentlemen, that was heady stuff for the summer of 1987. It was real, very heady stuff for an organization that had failed to meet its membership quota during the previous twelve months.

I have to tell you the setbacks of 1987 were on my mind as the convention drew to a close. I was feeling a little unsure about the year ahead, but I caught myself up short. We in the Auxiliary had a future to build.

Rehashing the past was no way to begin the task given us by last year's convention. To transform the Auxiliary's new vision of itself into reality, we needed a positive can-do attitude. And I wasn't alone in adopting a forward-looking attitude. I was encouraged by the enthusiasm I saw in our rank-and-file Auxiliary members, as represented by our convention delegates.

I was glad to see the determination of the Auxiliary's national adjutant Maria Tedrow and her staff. I was pleased to hear the beat of hope in the words of my fellow national offices. I knew I had some partners as I watched our women leave Atlanta on a wave of optimism.

All of us were inspired by these talks of great change. We were excited. We were ready to see the sun come up and a new day in the DAV Auxiliary. Our hopes were built on a solid ground. I saw that clearly in the days and the weeks that followed.

I discovered that the foundation of the Auxiliary's future had already been laid. I found that my predecessors in the office of national commander had been hard at work. I saw that it was time to go into action, time to start building that bright future we talked about in Atlanta. My year in the Auxiliary's highest office has been devoted to that task.

Sharing that work was our national staff, our Auxiliary officers, our national executive committee, and all the women in all the departments and units were really terrific.

Together we tried to build our membership, our vision of service, our partnership with the DAV, and our image of ourselves in the DAV Auxiliary.

Let's talk first about the image of ourselves and our organization.

There was a real challenge here. We were asking people to change from very basic attitudes.

What was required was a new way of thinking, not only in our own organization but the DAV as well. And old habits of thought are hard to change.

Since the Auxiliary's founding in 1922, our purpose has always been to assist the DAV in its mission. With this in mind, members of both the DAV and the Auxiliary have viewed our organization as somehow subordinate to the DAV. But today's Auxiliary women look at this issue in a different light. They see needs, real needs, and in the families of the disabled veterans. And they realize that no one is in a better position to meet those needs than the DAV Auxiliary.

The women who need us are women very much like ourselves. These women have families very much like our own. We understand their problems as no one else really can.

Responding to those problems would require new programs, and those programs would have to be Auxiliary programs, programs that complimented those of the DAV but maintain an Auxiliary independence.

As it was put at last summer's convention, we would have to stop thinking of ourselves as little sisters of the DAV. We would have to arrive at a new self-image, seeing ourselves as partners of the DAV, full, equal partners.

That brings me to the second issue. What is partnership? For the answer to that question, you really have to look at what's happening in the DAV chapters and Auxiliary units across America.

The idea of partnership is sinking in. As I have traveled around the country, people were always talking to me about partnership. I have heard that same message over and over again, and it's working, particularly when the Auxiliary units and departments are stepping out on their own to serve the families of veterans.

When the DAV members see everything that can be done, you bet they're supportive. They are quick to perceive that their spouses and their children have the most to gain.

The partnerships of the DAV and the Auxiliary involves the deepest meaning and purpose of both organizations. I am talking here about service, the third challenge presented by and to the women of last summer's Auxiliary convention.

As the Auxiliary begins building independent service initiatives aimed at the families of the veterans, we are doing so in partnership with the DAV.

I think you are beginning to see how all the challenges of the 1987 National Convention tie together.

Our Auxiliary units and departments are tapping into the DAV's national service offices. We are getting help from the DAV hospital service coordinators. And perhaps most importantly, we are getting terrific understanding and involvement from the DAV chapters and departments. They're asking what they can do to help.

And there is much the DAV can do. Much is already being done. Our HSCs and our NSOs is aiding our efforts to identify families who need our help. And when the Auxiliary finds veterans and families who need service from our HFCs and our NSOs, we are helping them get the assistance that's required.

Family service is becoming a reality in the DAV Auxiliary. Our new vision of ourselves and our organization is taking hold, not only in the Auxiliary, but in the DAV as well.

We have covered a surprising distance since we left Atlanta, and I hope to see further progress at this year's Auxiliary National Convention.

Our task here in Dallas is to solidify what we have already accomplished and laying the groundwork for further progress in the year ahead.

And as I look at the task that awaits the Auxiliary delegates to this convention, I realize that we face a monumental pursuit. But I feel nothing but confidence.

I have faith in the women in this room. If anyone has proven that faith can move mountains, it's the DAV Auxiliary. To see what I mean, just look at the fourth challenge of the Auxiliary's 1987 National Convention—membership. The Auxiliary national membership achievement for 1987-88 year shows that something really fantastic had happened when we got together in Atlanta.

Our women bounced back from the membership disappointments of the previous year. They went back to their units determined to see a better year in 1987-88. They went back to their departments with fire in their eyes.

All of us in the Auxiliary shared an enthusiasm that just wouldn't stop. At the national level, we had done our homework in the direct mail. We were ready to roll out the most successful membership campaign we have ever dropped in the mail.

I'm not going to kid anyone. It was hard work. But our individual recruiters, our units, our departments, and our national headquarters staff really came through. We were all on pins and needle on June 30th as the final results were tabulated. We knew it was going to be big, really big. Our only question was, How big?

Then the numbers started coming out of the computer and it was official. The Auxiliary posted the largest membership gain in its entire 66-year history.

I was astonished, amazed, absolutely flabbergasted. The sheer size of the Auxiliary's membership gain was thoroughly unprecedented. Every single Auxiliary department exceeded its quota. Every single one. This is the first time this has ever happened in the history of the Auxiliary. A membership year that begins with only 125,780 women in our ranks ended with a stunning 162,733 members. We had achieved a gain of over 37,000 women. [Applause.]

In a single year, we posted a gain of 29 and a half percent. I don't know of any other nonprofit organization anywhere in America that has ever achieved anything like this. This is positively incredible.

I am elated, and I thank every woman in this room, as well as all the Auxiliary members who can't be with us today, for making it possible. [Applause.]

National Adjutant Maria Tedrow, and National Membership Chairman Shelia Allred, would you join me at this podium? [Applause.]

All of us know we can't sit back on our laurels now. We know we have to keep working, keep growing, keep building. But I think we can allow ourselves this one opportunity to pat ourselves on the back.

So, in closing, let's have the Auxiliary members in this room let everyone know exactly how they feel about what all of us have done together.

[Displaying signs reading "162,733, 33,527 over quota.".]

You are great. And now may I take this opportunity to present you the Auxiliary national officers, chairmen, and our NECs. Please hold your applause until they have all been presented.

National Senior Vice and Mae Holmes Chairman Rose Schilpp, from Independence, Missouri; National 1st Junior Vice and Membership Chairman Sheila Allred from Raleigh, North Carolina; National 2nd Junior Vice and Legislative Chairman Claudia Roy, Chesterfield, New Hampshire; National 3rd Junior Vice and Americanism Chairman, Myrtice Vinson from Macon, Georgia.

National 4th Junior Vice and Community Service Chairman Bonita Newell, Denver, Colorado; National Chaplain Judy Uetterling from Defiance, Ohio; our National Judge Advocate Evelyn Ramirez, Fresno, California; and that great National Adjutant, Maria Tedrow, from Cincinnati, Ohio; and our Assistant National Adjutant Judy Hezlep, also of Cincinnati; and our immediate past national commander, who did lay the groundwork in so many different areas, Loneita Shoemaker, from Little Rock, Arkansas. [Applause.]

I would also like to present to you Dovie Hawkins, convention chairman. They are doing a great job there.

I do have a few others that I would like to introduce that have carried out our programs, let us achieve what we have achieved this year. Marjorie Hass, historian, from Bowbells, North Dakota;

Shirley Larson, Minnesota, our hospital chairman; Barbara Maldet from Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, our junior activities chairman; Nancy Laurence from Bridge City, Texas, our VAVS representative; Lela McGinness, Apple Valley, California, deputy VAVS representative; Charlene Meeks from Eaton Park, Florida, national sergeant-at-arms; our national historian Thelma Williamson.

And I would like to have our past national commanders, if you will please stand. [Applause.]

We have our national district executive committee women sitting in front here. And if you will stand as I call your name. And please hold your applause.

Margaret Lopresti, District 1; Dorothy Bednarczyk, District 2; District 3, Thelma Tucci; District 4, Betty Slacum; District 5, Virginia Hartman; District 6, Elsa Rodriguez; District 7, Fannie Proctor; District 8, Vernice Eunice; District 9, Alice Poteat; District 10, Johann Spalding; District 11, Barbara Hicks; District 12, Lorraine Hanna.

District 13, Martha Gilmer; District 14, Annette Bain Wilson; District 15, Marcille Thomas; District 16, Ruth Demele; District 17, Myrtle Shakespeare; District 18, Nancy Lee; District 19, Naoma Kalstad; District 20, Betty Burgman; District 21, Darlene J. Conroy.

Would you give these ladies a hand, please. [Applause.]

And now I'd like to present to you someone out there in the audience, the one who has made me eligible for the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. I am so very proud of him. Even though he was my bag carrier and my gopher and did all of those perks for me, I'd like to present to you Past National Commander Lyle C. Pearson. [Applause.]

National Commander Gene, again I'd like to thank you for your indulgence for allowing me our little demonstration that the Auxiliary had, and for me to present my officers. And now I'd like to present to you this plaque.

We are so very proud that you were our national commander this past year.

This is presented to Gene A. Murphy, National Commander, in appreciation for the distinguished service given to the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, signed by National Adjutant Maria Tedrow, National Commander Katherine Pearson. [Applause.]

Commander MURPHY. Thank you, Katherine, for that outstanding report. You know, the ladies really did it, Katherine, under your leadership. Again let's give them your applause. [Applause.]

FROM THE FLOOR. Commander——

Commander MURPHY. You are out of order, sir.

Our 1988 Disabled Veteran of the Year has been described as a man who is hell on crime. They say he's carried the same zeal into the courtroom that he's carried into the battle of a young Marine Corps officer in Vietnam. In Vietnam he had to discipline marines. Now as the district attorney for Philadelphia, he disciplines civilians.

With his 1985 election to a four-year term, he became the first Republican elected city-wide in 16 years. But that's just one of a series of uphill battles he's fought since losing his right leg to a 50-caliber Viet Cong machine gun slug in 1967.

A charging young marine commander, he was leading a team assigned to remove the casualties of another platoon that was pinned down by a Viet Cong battalion. A machine gun slug struck his upper right thigh and knocked him down. Patting a fistful of soft mud into his wound to slow the bleeding, he continued to direct the recovery operation. Always a man who inspired loyalty, his life was saved by a young marine who was killed while pulling his lieutenant up an embankment to safety.

Recalling the incident, our outstanding disabled vet said: Corporal Angel Mendez was an orphan from New York. There is no one to mourne him but me.

Later while in the hospital, he learned that bacteria from the mud in his wound had infected his leg, causing gangrene to set in. Despite his protests, the doctors had to remove the leg.

But he left military service a determined man. He moved on with his life, attending the University of Virginia Law School. After receiving a law degree in 1971, he joined the Philadelphia district attorney's staff. Following eleven years as a trial lawyer and two years as deputy district attorney, he was elected to the top post in 1985.

Despite the intense demands of his job, the list of his involvements in veterans' and civil affairs is long and impressive. Just last week in Minneapolis he was elected as vice-president of the National District Attorneys Association.

Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to introduce to you the DAV's 1988 Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year, Philadelphia District Attorney Ronald D. Castille. Let's give him a rising round of applause. [Rising applause.]

Ron, come over here first. I know you want to give a speech first. You know how politicians are.

The inscription on the plaque reads: National Commanders Award to the Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year, Ronald D. Castille, for conspicuous and meritorious effort in overcoming a severe service-connected disability to the end that you have achieved success and a high order of accomplishments in your vocational efforts of choice.

Further, that such consistent and noteworthy accomplishment will ever serve as an inspiration and challenge to your comrades.

Signed, Charles E. Joeckel, Jr., National Adjutant; Gene A. Murphy, National Commander.

Congratulations. [Applause.]

Mr. **Ronald D. Castille**. Thank you Gene, and thank you Charles, and all members of the DAV offices, members of the DAV Auxiliary.

I guess I owe a lot of what I can do and what I've done to the help of a good friend of mine who has been there at home many a nights while I have been out on the campaign trail, or out doing things in the community of Philadelphia. I would like to introduce and let everyone say hello to my wife Judy who is up here on the stage. [Applause.]

I would like to thank my fellow DAV chapter members from DAV 14 in Philadelphia for the honor of nominating me. I would like to thank Harry J. Coyle in the Pennsylvania department of the DAV for nominating me as the Pennsylvania DAV Veteran of the Year.

But I would really like to thank, from the bottom of my heart, the National DAV for this tremendous honor. It was thrill enough for me when my county council selected me as the Veteran of the Year. It was really beyond my belief when the State Department of Pennsylvania honored me for the same high honor.

But to receive this national honor, it's really beyond words. To me it's the thrill of a lifetime. It's really difficult to describe how I felt when I heard that I was named the National Veteran of the Year.

But to me, I receive a lot of honors from a lot of citizens groups. But to me this is what really counts. It comes from my fellow disabled veterans.

And this is an organization that I hold very special. It has continued to fight for the rights of veterans for almost 70 years. And these are rights. These are rights that have been earned by your service, by my service, to this great nation.

These are rights that have been and are being protected at this very moment from those who would dismantle the important programs, and those who do not recognize your sacrifice for your nation.

I came from a career military family as did my wife. My father was an Air Force officer. My wife's father was a Naval officer. I joined the marines in 1966 because I wanted to serve my nation, to give them back something that they gave me.

Well, you have heard what happened to me. But my country didn't forget me after I was injured. Through the various programs administered by the VA, with the help of a lot of these organizations that I received when I was in the Navy hospital in Philadelphia, I was eventually able to go on and attend law school at the University of Virginia, and eventually become elected by my fellow citizens of Philadelphia to become a district attorney for the fourth largest city in the United States. And I must say that much of my support when I was elected came from the very veterans groups that I have worked with.

So being the district attorney of Philadelphia has been a great honor, but really the most gratifying accomplishment that I have been involved in in my career in Philadelphia has been the building and the dedication of the Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Through a total volunteer effort, starting with just four Vietnam veterans, myself and three other veterans, we were able to raise over a million dollars in contributions to build a beautiful memorial for the 630 Philadelphians who gave their life in sacrifice for their country and their nation in Vietnam. [Applause.]

This three-and-a-half year volunteer effort brought forth such feelings of patriotism in our city, and such feelings of comradeship amongst our fellow veterans, that I believe it's totally changed the attitude of the citizens of Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley towards all veterans, from whatever war or conflict they served in. It has brought forth in our area of the country a new respect for the sacrifices of each and every one of us, no matter where we have served. For that, I will always be truly grateful.

These 630 men are not with us today. Another marine is not with us today whose name has been mentioned, Angel Mendez, my right guide in a rifle platoon in Vietnam.

Yes, he was an orphan from New York City. And he joined the marines in order to find a family. The marines accepted him and loved him. Angel Mendez died in combat at 22 years of age in Vietnam. He died pulling me out of a rice paddy after I had been seriously wounded while evacuating marines.

He saved my life. Without him I would not be here today.

So Angel is not here in the audience today, nor are those 630 Philadelphians who gave their life for their country. But I feel their presence here today. They are with us in spirit at this very moment.

So I accept this honor not on behalf of myself, but I accept it on behalf of Angel Mendez. I accept it on behalf of the 630 Philadelphians who died in Vietnam, and I accept it on behalf of all disabled veterans everywhere who are just doing their job.

Thank you for this tremendous honor. [Rising applause.]

Commander MURPHY. Again, congratulations, Ron. You are really a leader of America and of veterans.

One of our proudest accomplishments this year has been the terrific growth of our National Transportation Network. Today we have more than 150 hospital service coordinators at VA medical centers nationwide.

We want to see that program grow even larger, and we want to make sure that every disabled veteran who needs our help can get it. That's why I'm proud to announce we will begin distributing a regional public service announcement to radio and television stations across America. And this afternoon, we are pleased to present the debut of the DAV National Transportation Program public service announcement.

[Public service announcement presented.] [Applause.]

Commander MURPHY. Each year with great pride we recognize the contribution of DAV and Auxiliary DAVS volunteers through the George H. Seal Memorial Award. The award is presented to two representatives of the VAVS Corps—one from the DAV and one from the Auxiliary.

Picking those two is always extremely difficult. There are many great volunteers to choose from.

The award takes its name from the late George H. Seal, a key figure in the DAV's VAVS program from 1952 until his death in 1977. Our DAV winner this year is Emmanuel Vlattas, and our Auxiliary winner is Jane Johnson.

These two exemplify thousands of DAV and Auxiliary VAVS volunteers who donated some two million hours of their time to helping the sick and disabled veterans.

Recently, one hour after laser surgery on his eyes, Emmanuel was comforting a dying patient at the Hampton Roads VA Medical Center in Newport News, Virginia.

To say that Emmanuel's concerns for veteran patients is way above and beyond the call of duty would be an understatement. His dedication is incredible.

Going blind in both eyes, he has focused his sight on the needs of terminally ill veterans and their families rather than his own problems.

Another volunteer who constantly thinks of others is Jane Johnson. She has given 27,000 hours of volunteer work to the Augusta, Georgia, VA Medical Center's patients. During most of her years of dedicated volunteering service, she was also holding down a full-time job.

By anyone's definition, Emmanuel and Jane are shining examples of selfless service. That's why I'm thrilled to present the George H. Seal Memorial Award to them here today.

Emmanuel and Jane, would you please step forward? [Rising applause.]

Commander MURPHY. Jane, it is with a great deal of pride that I present to you this cup, the George H. Seal Award for your volunteer activities at the Augusta, Georgia, VA Medical Center. Congratulations. [Applause.]

Mrs. JANE JOHNSON. Thank you. Commander Murphy, Commander Pearson, the national officers, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: I accept this award with great pride. It is an honor and privilege to be a VAVS representative and volunteer of the VA Medical Center in Augusta, Georgia.

Every day as a volunteer is better than the day past, because in talking with patients and the staff, they say DAV is always here.

I think I should share this award with every Auxiliary member that volunteers at a VA hospital. I want to thank everyone for the hospitality, and flying me to this national convention. I love every one of you. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander MURPHY. Emmanuel, on behalf of the Disabled American Veterans, I present to you the 1988 George H. Seal Memorial Award. Congratulations. And keep up the fine work. [Applause.]

Mr. EMMANUEL VLATTAS. Much like the Academy Awards, I want to thank the department of Virginia, the 13 chapters in my area who provide the cash to make me look good, and the volunteers who are out there every day helping me, and my helping them.

I want you all to know—and you won't believe this, but the greatest medication—the best medication you can have is happiness.

And I am very happy doing the work I do as a volunteer at our medical center. [Applause.]

And in order for me to prove this statement, you have to go out there and try it. That's the only way I can prove it. But when I go to the hospital, nothing hurts, and nothing bothers me.

I have to go a step further. I have to hustle to stay ahead of my understanding wife, my exceptional daughter, and a son, all of whom I love very much, and I admire them, and I am so proud of them that I try to keep up with them.

I hope that today, just for today, they, too, will be proud of me. I love my family. [Applause.]

There's just one thing more I have to say. I say it in all sincerity. This Greek standing before you is not running for president.

[Laughter.] But Michael, this day belongs to me. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander MURPHY. Is there anyone in the room who remembers last year's convention when Delbert Nelson was honored as the Outstanding Life Membership Recruiter of the Year? [Applause.]

He's the guy who grabbed the microphone and wouldn't let it go until he pasted the DAV national officers and staff to the wall.

Well, the delegates thought Delbert's performance was great. But the whole scene made the national officers and staff very, very nervous.

Even so, we made a promise to Delbert. We said he could have the podium again at this national convention if he recruited 500 life members. Darn it all, he did it. [Laughter and rising applause.]

During the 1987-88 year, Delbert recruited 527 life members. That's 344 more than the previous record, which was pretty impressive in its own right. He easily won the honors as this year's Life Membership Recruiter of the Year.

Delbert is here. You've really earned this, Delbert. At this time we would like to present this to you, Delbert, as the top life membership recruiter. Congratulations. [Applause.]

Before I'm ready to give you the podium, there's one more thing Greg Jackson didn't tell you. In addition to the 527 life members you brought into our ranks, you recruited 18 annual members.

By my calculations, that brings you a total to 545 recruitments for a single year. And guess what. Nobody has matched that. So it's my pleasure to present to you with the DAV Recruiter of the Year Award as well. [Presenting trophy to Delbert Nelson.]

Before I let you get ahold of this microphone to skin me, I just want to say, you're one fantastic guy. Your efforts to recruiting members go back a long way, and all of us love you for it.

Okay, Delbert, let us have it. [Laughter.]

Mr. DELBERT NELSON. I think we are in trouble. [Laughter.]

Smile. You might make someone happy today. I have to get organized, National Commander Murphy.

I thank you very much, Commander Murphy. It is with great pleasure that I accept this award. I just can't help but mention about Butch Joeckel, when he isn't around, when he says, "How does it feel?" Well, I could climb any mountaintop when I got that 500. And Butch even told me to call him. So I called him.

Anyway, last year when I was cited for being top membership recruiter, I apparently held the microphone too long. And I put Mr. Maile down here this year, so he doesn't have to bother.

Former National Adjutant Adams loaned me $527, but I'll get that from Butch. [Laughter.]

National Adjutant Adams stated that if I was going to be up here again that I could recruit 500 members. Well, I recruited 527.

Anyway, Butch is here now. And he came to our state convention and he gave quite a spiel, like he usually does, but very rewarding. And he comes up afterwards, and he says, "Dell, do you think you'll make it? How would you feel?"

I said, "I certainly will." And that's when I got to work.

Anyway, Mr. Honorable National Commander calls Tom Mullin; he's the director at the VA. And the directors work pretty late, about 8 o'clock at night, and he called me and said, "I got a call from the national commander."

And I said, "What's up?"

He said, "After all, there's two people out there trying to recruit more members than you, so you better get going." [Laughter.]

And I have to mention Bernie Melter, if I can find him. Stand up, Bernie, wherever you are. He's the state commander of Minnesota, one smart cookie.

Anyway, he was senior vice-commander last year, and you know how it is working and getting money and promoting. Anyway, he's an Indian from Redwing, Minnesota. And Craig Fisher, my manager [laughter.], we had three meetings, Mr. Murphy. And I said, "You are just wasting your time. You can sell lice." And believe me now, he sells nothing but lice. And you can do it.

Now, I just have to mention one more man, Mr. Craig Fisher. He is my manager, and he helped me every way possible. And at the present time he's Minnesota state junior vice-commander. And this man, he really is sincere and everything. When I call him, he says, "Hello." And he's always so busy, you can't get ahold of him. And then I start talking, and he says, "I'm busy, I've got to get going."

Anyway, he's helped me tremendous. And we had a meeting set up. I set up promotions that I like to run. But they cut half of them out, you know, but I can't run them all.

Then I called Butch Joeckel, and he'd like to help me. Anyway, I'll get to the real measures now. I'm tired of hearing how difficult it is to recruit members. The difficulty is not in the recruiting. The difficulty is getting off your butts to do the recruiting. [Laughter and applause.]

As top membership recruiter the past two years, I offer a challenge to each and every one of you. I challenge you to recruit more members than I do so he's going to be out there next year. [Laughter.]

I know what this organization needs in the way of membership. And I'm doing something about it. Don't make excuses. Make the contacts; you'll get members.

I thank my chapter, Minneapolis chapter number 1, for the assistance that they have provided. I thank the department of Minnesota for their necessary support, a man there by the name of Past National Commander Mr. Pearson and Mr. Merthan. It takes about a month before I get my check, but I finally get it. [Laughter.]

And I especially thank the national membership department for their sound advice and prompt efforts to provide me with recruiting lists and supplies. Without their assistance, I would not have been able to accomplish what I had.

I work hard for the DAV because I believe in this organization and what it stands for.

Very important, I also thank the Commanders and Adjutants Association for their support.

When I first joined back in '78, and then through the years we got involved with membership, and this year, we've gotten an awful lot of members. So I think we can all count that they have pledged to national adjutant Mr. Adams a big help until we get one million members, and that's what they're doing.

Eleven reasons why you should become a life member of the Disabled American Veterans:

Number 1. Never have to pay dues again.

Number 2, continue to receive the copy of the DAV monthly magazine each and every month for life.

Number 3, continued information on veterans' benefits such as VA compensation programs and VA medical programs.

Number 4, life membership will guarantee a continuing program to all veterans.

Number 5, have knowledge of the ongoing effort put fourth by the national and legislative headquarters in their fight to maintain the benefits to the disabled veteran.

Number 6, wives, widows and dependents to receive service and counseling from DAV organizations.

Number 7, life membership is a real savings compared to buying annual membership.

Number 8, the DAV will have more strength with a permanent membership.

Number 9, easy-pay plan. No carrying plan. Easy, easy payments, based on a two-year period.

No. 10, you will be helping the DAV to help you, your family and other disabled veterans.

Number 11, the most important. Be proud, DAV life membership. You have earned it.

Now I just want to tell you an example as far as in Minnesota. I recruited 527 members. We made it happen. In the state of Minnesota in two and a half years, you will get back $2,000 to promote that for next year. And any state can go ahead and do it. And in five years it will double the money. So you can see what life membership helps as far as finances, also. [Applause.]

I know we will go over it. One million in 1988 and '89. Are we going to all try and get one million strong in '88 and '89? I know I am.

Let's all please stand and be counted. Let's all please stand and be counted. Let's all please stand and be counted.

Thank you very much. Again, thank you for the honor bestowed on me. Thank you very much. [Rising applause.]

Adjutant **JOECKEL**. Delbert, that's one hell of a way to get a standing ovation, I'll say that. [Laughter.]

I think you worked on that speech all year. Well, Delbert, we're not going to be as easy on you next year. You know, Adams was too easy on you. He said 500. I say 800. What do you think? [Applause.]

Mr. **NELSON**. Do you want to bet a little money?

Adjutant **JOECKEL**. How much?

Mr. **NELSON**. I'll see you.

Commander **MURPHY**. Merthan, he wants that $2,000 out of you. And if you don't give it to him, I'm afraid we'll have to.

Commander **MURPHY**. Again, congratulations to you, Del. One outstanding job in membership recruitment. I feel if we had recruiters such as Delbert in each department or each chapter in the DAV, we wouldn't have anything to worry about.

At this time we would like to introduce Michael Tempesta, Chairman of the Interim Membership and Volunteer Services Committee and Gregory M. Jackson, National Membership Director, for presentations of membership awards.

Mr. **Gregory M. Jackson**. Thank you, Commander Murphy. We have just completed a very successful and banner year in terms of membership. The success is due in large part to the individual efforts of each one of you here today. You have every right to feel proud of what you have done. We are a proud organization and you play a part in that.

Accomplishments are many, but we have a long ways to go. It would be nice if we had a Delbert Nelson in every department. Lord knows we would make time for him at the convention. Delbert is quite a character. He's entertaining and he's fun to work with, believe me.

At this time it gives me a great deal of pleasure to recognize and honor those chapters and departments that have excelled in membership during the past year.

The first award will go to the chapter with the greatest percentage increase over last year's membership. This goes to Keith Mehaffey, chapter number 89, the department of North Carolina. They went from 14 members to 117 for an increase of 735 percent. [Applause.]

The next award goes to the chapter with the greatest numeric increase over last year's membership. This is presented to Lieutenant Alfred Lucia, chapter number 118, department of New York. They went from 833 members to 1,216 members for an increase of 383. [Applause.]

The award is being received by Prospero Sodano. [Applause.]

And for the record, for North Carolina, it was Department Commander Joseph Tolar.

Now, into Division Awards for those outstanding departments. We will begin with Division V, the department of Nevada, 176 members over goal for an over-goal percentage of 104.05 percent, being accepted by department commander Stanley Spierer. [Applause.]

And before he gets away, at this time we would like to present the department of Nevada with their check for $1,000 as they have reached the 85 percent life award. [Applause.]

The next award is Division IV, department of Puerto Rico, 240 members over goal, for an over-goal percentage of 103.06 percent, the award being accepted by Angel Velazquez, department commander. [Applause.]

Mr. **Angel Velazquez**. In behalf of over 8,000 DAV members in Puerto Rico who do not have the right to vote for the President of United States nor have representation in Congress, I so thank my comrades here for this award. And I want to present the hats from Puerto Rican hillbillies to each one of them, please.

[Distributing straw hats to the head table.] [Applause.]

Mr. **Jackson**. All right, moving right along. Department of New Mexico, 412 members over goal for an over-goal percentage of 103.92, being accepted by the department commander Stanley Miller. [Applause.]

Division II, department of Washington, 452 members over goal for an over-goal percentage of 102.32, being accepted by department commander John E. Casch. [Applause.]

Division I, department of Pennsylvania, 2,364 members over goal for a percentage of 104.34, being accepted by department commander Donald Graffius. [Applause.]

Mr. **Donald Graffius**. Pennsylvania, thank you very much. We had a banner year for membership. We had good leadership, great leadership, under our Commander Harry Coyle. The programs that we worked with were very successful. And I want to thank you very much.

And I hope that what we did improved the DAV by membership, and I hope we go out and get them again next year. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr. **Jackson**. Commander Murphy explained, in his eyes, anyway, the importance of membership. He does more than just talk about it. He has his entire department working for him.

The Division V, the departments with the largest percentage increase in life membership, the first award goes to the department of South Dakota. It went from 3,057 to 4,201 life members for an increase of 37.42 percent. Accepted by Commander Jamie Thompson. [Applause.]

And as a follow-up to that award, we would like to at this time present the department with a check for $2,000, which represents the fact that the department of South Dakota is the first department to reach 90 percent life. [Applause.]

Division IV, department of Maine, went from 4,112 life members to 4,727 for an increase of 14.95 percent, the award to be accepted by the department commander Norman Vir. [Applause.]

For Division III, department of Louisiana, from 6,778 life members to 7,874, for an increase of 16.16 percent. The award will be received by the department senior vice-commander, Lee Richard. [Applause.]

Division II, department of Missouri, 12,199 life members to 13,969, for an increase of 14.50 percent, being accepted by department commander Dean Riley. [Applause.]

Mr. **Dean Riley**. It is with great pride and respect that I accept this award in behalf of all the members in the state of Missouri. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr. **Jackson**. Division I, department of Pennsylvania, from 33,924 life members to 38,027, for an increase of 12.09 percent, the award to be accepted by department commander Don Graffius. [Applause.]

Mr. **Don Graffius**. Well, here I am again. You all can't realize how much I'm filled up with pride this morning. I'm proud of every Pennsylvanian who went out and did the job to get membership done. I salute every member in Pennsylvania that contributed to the program this year.

Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr. **Jackson**. Before the department of Pennsylvania sits down, we would like to recognize them for the department with the largest numeric increase over last year's membership. To them goes the prestigious Wainwright Award. It went from 53,997 members to 56,853 for an increase of 2,856 members. [Applause.]

Mr. **Don Graffius**. One more last time. Last year, the commander asked us to stand up and be counted. I would like everybody here from the Pennsylvania delegation to stand up and be counted.

I think the numbers speak for themselves. Thank you. God bless you all. [Applause.]

Mr. JACKSON. The final award today will go to the department with the largest percentage increase over last year's membership. And this is the Marx Award. This year it goes to the department of Nevada, that went from 4,272 members to 4,520 for an increase of 5.80 percent. It will be accepted by department commander Stanley Spierer. [Applause.]

Mr. STANLEY SPIERER. This is never done alone. It is done with the blood, sweat and tears of every member of our organization with the great leadership we have. We thank you for that leadership. And we will continue to support you to the best of our ability. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr. JACKSON. Commander Murphy, that concludes the membership awards. I would be remiss if I failed to recognize and thank the members of our committee with the assistance of Vice Chairman Mike Tempesta of California, past national commander Paul Thompson from Maryland, of course Jim Friesema. To each and every one of you, my special thanks for your support. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander MURPHY. The adjutant will read the names of the convention committee advisors that I have appointed and who received approval of the National Executive Committee at its most recent meeting.

Adjutant JOECKEL. Commander, the convention committee advisors are: Credentials, Boniface R. Maile and Gregory M. Jackson; General Resolutions, Richard F. Schulz; Legislation, Thomas L. Tomlinson and John F. Heilman; Veterans Rights, Charles A. Thompson; Constitution and Bylaws, Joseph R. Harold and Thomas G. Dehne; Finance and Dues, Frank J. Fantanza and Charles Cryder.

National Security and Americanism, Marion E. Shoemake; Employment, Frank J. Randazzo and Ronald W. Drach.

Medical services, Vern M. Nygaard and David W. Gorman; Membership and volunteer services, Michael Tempesta and Bruce G. Nitsche; Nomination of National Officers, William O. Cooper.

Commander MURPHY. Members of the DAV and Auxiliary, at this time, I have a special duty to perform. Blanche John has been employed at the DAV office in New York City for 15 years. Blanche is proud of her work for the DAV, and proud of her son Anthony, who is a U.S. Navy 2nd class petty officer.

Anthony is stationed here at Dallas at the U.S. Navy Station, and he's made a special request that I was happy to grant.

In consideration of his mother's long and loyal employment with the DAV, and the fact that she would be attending this year's national convention, Petty Officer John has requested that his reenlistment into the U.S. Navy be conducted at this convention.

Ladies and gentlemen, would you please welcome to the podium at this time Commander Stephen S. Brainerd, former commanding officer of the Fighter Squadron Two Zero One Navy Air Station in Dallas, who will be performing Petty Officer John's reenlistment ceremonies.

Would Petty Officer John and Blanche also joining us on the stage. [Applause.]

Commander Stephen S. Brainerd. It's a privilege to participate in the ceremony before you this afternoon. This ceremony is enacted many times a day in the United States Navy. In this case, Petty Officer John is enlisting for four more years. The ceremony itself, and the oath itself, has been a tradition in the United States Navy for about 200 years, basically unchanged.

And I was reminded last night that it is basically the same oath that is given to senators prior to them participating on the floor of the Senate in the United States Senate.

I will reverse this so that we will get the picture right.

[Petty Officer Anthony John repeated the oath as follows:]

> I, Anthony John, do solemnly swear or affirm that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same, and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice, so help me God.
>
> I swear or affirm that the information above has been correctly recorded and is true in all respects, and that I fully understand the conditions under which I am enlisting.

[Applause.]

Commander Murphy. There's four simple words that just about anybody can say. "We Make It Happen." That's real easy. Now you try it.

Audience. "We Make It Happen."

Commander Murphy. That doesn't sound very convincing. Try it again.

Audience. "We Make It Happen."

Commander Murphy. That's better. But do you really mean it? Try it one more time.

Audience. "We Make It Happen."

Commander Murphy. That's better. Now say it like you really mean it. Say it like only the DAV can.

Audience. "We Make It Happen." "We Make It Happen." "We Make It Happen." "We Make It Happen."

[A video presentation was shown.] [Applause.]

Commander Murphy. Ladies and gentlemen, if you will please rise, and we will call and ask the Chaplain Bergstrom to lead us in the closing prayer.

Chaplain Bergstrom. Let us pray. Eternal Lord, we have gathered together in your name. We have been inspired by the words of those who have addressed us this day.

As we depart from the place, let us go forward encouraged, strenghened and eager to do Your will, and to work as best we can for the disabled veteran, his widow, and his orphan.

Let us remember especially those veterans who are hospitalized, those veterans imprisoned, those veterans who are homeless, and all those who need our help.

Let us go forward from strength to strength, in your service, now and always. Amen.

Commander Murphy. The convention is in recess until 10:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. Thank you.

[Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 3:10 p.m. on Sunday, July 24, 1988.]

MONDAY MORNING BUSINESS SESSION

The Monday Morning Business Session of the 67th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans convened in the Chantilly Ballroom of the Loews Anatole Hotel, Dallas, Texas, commencing at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on July 25, 1988, and was called to order by Commander Gene A. Murphy.

Commander **GENE A. MURPHY**. This convention will come to order. In opening the first business session of the 67th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans, it is fitting and proper that we render the respect due the flag. Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

[Pledge of Allegiance.]

Commander **MURPHY**. We will now be led in prayer by the national chaplain, Reverend Carl Bergstrom.

Chaplain **BERGSTROM**. Let us pray. Eternal Lord, Heavenly Father, we come together now as members of the Disabled American Veterans, in session to do those things that you would have us to do.

Help us to remember that first and foremost we are citizens of these United States. As we have served in time of war, help us to continue to serve in time of peace.

Bless our nation and its leaders, the President of these United States and all others in authority. As we would have them to serve us, help us to serve them and do the things that we must do.

Help us to remember the disabled American veteran, his widow and his orphan, and remembering those who are absent from us because they are still missing in action and may still be prisoners of war. Amen.

Commander **MURPHY**. First of all, I'd like to read a letter from Governor William P. Clemmens, Jr.

> It is an honor to welcome to Dallas the Disabled American Veterans for the 67th National Convention. I deeply appreciate the invitation of National Commander Gene A. Murphy to welcome you personally, and regret that a schedule conflict presents my being with you.
>
> As a nation, we are eternally grateful to you for the sacrifices that you have made in defense of our freedom. There are few organizations in the United States today for which I have more respect than I do for the Disabled American Veterans. You personify what is the best in our nation: Honor, patriotism and love of country.
>
> To our out-of-state visitors, I extend a special Texas welcome. We hope that you will return soon and often.
>
> Please let me express my warmest best wishes to those attending this convention, and my special regard for and appreciation to your comrades in arms who gave the ultimate sacrifice to their country.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> WILLIAM P. CLEMMENS, JR.,
> *Governor of the State of Texas.*

In order for a delegate to be heard at this convention, he must be recognized by the chair. Only those delegates at a microphone will be recognized. The delegate must state his name, chapter number and the state he represents.

At this time I'd like to call the chairman of the Credentials Committee for its first report.

Mr. **LARRY POLZIN**. The National Convention Committee on Credentials was called to order for its first business session on Monday, July 25th, 1988, by the advisors, Boniface R. Maile and Gregory M. Jackson.

The first order of business was the election of the Credentials Committee chairman. Larry Polzin was nominated for chairman. There being no further nominations, Larry Polzin was elected chairman.

The next order of business was the nomination and the election of a secretary. Virgil Barnett was nominated and elected as secretary.

The Credentials Committee met this morning in the Rosetta Room. The roll call shows 1,424 delegates and 72 alternates present.

This is a partial report for informational purposes only and reflects the registration at the close of registration at 1:00 p.m. on July 24th, 1988.

At the present time we have 563 chapters, 45 departments, 26 national officers, ten past national commanders, for a total of 1,424 delegates and 72 alternates for a total vote of 9,123.

This completes a partial report of the Credentials Committee, Mr. Commander.

Commander MURPHY. Thank you. The first order of business of this convention is the adoption of the rules. Printed copies of the rules have been furnished to each registered delegate.

The chair will now entertain a motion for adoption of the rules. Mike 1.

Mr. JAMES TILLMAN. Mike 1, please. I'm James Tillman, Jr., Blind Chapter, chapter number 1 of national.

It gives me a great pleasure and honor, in behalf of P.D. Jackson, that I would like to recommend that we adopt the rules in his honor, 'cause he was from Dallas, Texas—and I'm from San Antone. Thank you, and God bless the convention.

Commander MURPHY. Thank you, Jimmy. Do we have a second? Mike 2.

Mr. JOHN MCCARTHY. John McCarthy, number 4, Florida. Second the motion.

Commander MURPHY. Discussion. All in favor say Aye. All against say Nay. So moved.

The National Executive Committee at its most recent meeting adopted the following resolution on DAV policy and recommends its adoption by the convention.

> The Disabled American Veterans was founded on the principle that this nation's first duty to veterans is the rehabilitation of its wartime disabled. This principle envisions:
>
> 1. High-quality hospital and medical care administered by the Veterans Administration for veterans with disability incurred or aggravated by service in America's Armed Forces.
> 2. Adequate compensation for the loss resulting from such service-connected disabilitiesy.
> 3. Vocational rehabilitation and/or education to help the disabled veteran prepare for and obtain gainful employment.
> 4. Enhanced opportunities for employment and preferential job placement so that the remaining ability of the disabled veteran is used productively.
> 5. Adequate compensation to the widows and survivors of veterans whose deaths are held to be service-connected under laws administered by the Veterans Administration.
>
> It therefore follows that we will not take action on any resolution that proposes legislation designed to provide benefits for other than wartime, service-connected disability. We shall not oppose legislation beneficial to those veterans not classified

> as service-connected disabled, except when it is evident that such legislation will jeopardize benefits for service-connected disabled veterans.
>
> While our first duty as an organization is to assist the service-connected disabled, his widow and survivors, we will, within the limits of our resources, assist others in filing, perfecting and prosecuting their claims for benefits.
>
> Since this represents the principle upon which our organization was founded and since it is as sound at this time as it was in 1920, we hereby reaffirm this principle as the policy for the Disabled American Veterans.

At this time the chair will entertain a motion for the adoption of this statement of policy.

Mr. George Nicholas. George Nicholas, Scott County, chapter 2, moves for the adoption of this policy.

Commander Murphy. Thank you. Do I have a second? Mike 3.

Mr. Joseph Harold. Harold, Boston, 10, seconds the motion.

Commander Murphy. Discussion? All in favor say Aye. All against say Nay. So moved.

I have known the gentleman I am about to introduce for a number of years. So have you. When you mention the name of "Sonny" Montgomery, the image that comes to mind of all of us here, indeed that comes to the mind of all veterans across this great country of ours, is that of a champion.

Standing on the floor of the House of Representatives, speaking on behalf of America's wartime disabled, their dependents and survivors, what better advocate could all of us have than Sonny Montgomery. He's a combat-decorated veteran of World War II and Korea, retired at the rank of general.

Voters in the Third Congressional District of Mississippi first elected Sonny to the House of Representatives in 1967, and they have been returning him to that body ever since.

He's been a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee for 20 years, and he has been its distinguished chairman for the past eight years.

Throughout his entire congressional career, in addition to ensuring that our nation's active duty, reserve and National Guard forces are maintained at the highest degree of readiness, Sonny Montgomery has given equal priority to ensuring that our nation also keeps its moral commitment and obligation to care for those who have served and sacrificed in time of war.

Respected and admired by his colleagues in the Congress, both in the House of Representatives and the Senate, Sonny Montgomery, more than any other individual now serving on Capitol Hill, has stood tall for America's veterans. Through thick and thin, in good times and bad, Sonny Montgomery has always been there when we needed him.

Let's all of us stand tall in his honor and give him a welcome that he'll long remember.

My fellow delegates of this convention, I present to you the most honorable, the most distinguished Chairman of the House of Veterans Affairs, Sonny Montgomery. [Rising applause.]

Congressman G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery. Thank you, Commander Gene Murphy, for that very, very warm and generous introduction. That was certainly worth the trip. I hope my remarks will be half as good as that introduction.

And to the platform guests and to the officers of the DAV, and my fellow veterans, ladies and gentlemen:

I had the privilege of being at the 65th National Convention. It's a pleasure for you to invite me. And I'm honored to be with you at the 67th National Convention. It's nice to be on this platform with General Turnage, Administrator of the Veterans Administration. And General Turnage, you get out and meet with veterans. I enjoy seeing you around the country. And it's nice to meet with you again here in Dallas, Texas.

Let me begin today with the words of a great American, and I quote:

> Our veterans' benefit system is and always has been a valuable national asset, one of tremendous importance to all Americans in our country. It has the potential to become even more so. Let us confirm, acknowledge and underscore this simple truth by placing the VA where it rightly belongs in the ranks of our nation's Cabinet Departments.

Now, who said that? Your own national commander. These are the words of Commander Gene Murphy as he testified before the Joint House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. And it had a lot of effect on us.

Let's give Gene a hand for the great testimony. [Applause.]

The whole statement was hard-hitting, it was eloquent, and it certainly had some effect on our committee, because not only did the House vote out a Cabinet bill, but the United States Senate as well.

You know, we should be able to work out our minor differences between the Senate and the House on the Cabinet elevation bill, and it should go to the President, in my opinion, in about two weeks' time.

And as far as President Reagan, the DAV was at a meeting that the President himself called in November. And DAV representatives were there. We didn't know what was going to happen or why he had called us. And the President told us then that, "I'm going to sign a Cabinet-level bill if you send it to the White House."

Mr. President, it's on the way. [Applause.]

So the bottom line is, my friends, and my veterans, that veterans will have a representative at the Cabinet table, and you will have a direct input to the president, and you will have a say in policymaking decisions of the Executive Branch.

You know, farmers are represented in the Cabinet. And that's good. That's the way it should be. Students, teachers, even welfare recipients have representation around the Cabinet table. But no one deserves the privilege of Cabinet status more than the veterans of this country. It should have been done a long, long time ago. [Applause.]

Since we are in Texas, I certainly want to give credit to Congressman Jack Brooks, who is chairman of the House Governmental Affairs Committee, that this legislation came out of his committee. It started in the House of Representatives. And thanks to Jack Brooks—if he had not said, "I want this bill to move," it would still be in committee. So I did want you to know that Jack Brooks of Texas certainly had a lot to do with moving this legislation.

You know, the VA is involved in so many issues, and that's really why we should have been in Cabinet 30 years before, before they made these other four to five Cabinet positions.

You know, we have a hospital system that treats more AIDS patients than any other hospital systems in the country, and it's increasing.

What agency helped to conquer tuberculosis and develop the CAT scanner and the pacemaker? And I have talked with General Turnage about this. We ought to advertise more. We ought to tell the country of the things we have done in our VA medical facilities, not only to accept veterans, but to accept all Americans.

You know, we have trained half the nation's physicians, and a large number of the nurses today went through the VA system. We have provided over 20 million young Americans the opportunity to have an education.

Who has done the most to promote the dignity of the disabled and to assist them in becoming productive citizens? And I find our disabled American veterans and disabled veterans as I go across the country are probably our best citizens. They have adjusted better than some of those that never saw any combat or never hardly left their home states.

Whose housing and insurance programs have had a major impact on the American economy? In each case it has to be the VA, the Veterans Administration.

The VA Cabinet-level department has been a long time coming, and it would not have happened without the type of support that we have got from the DAV. You put the heat on us in Washington. You went around and saw members of the Congress; your Washington office responded to negative editorials. I call them great, but they are big newspapers in the country, took after the Cabinet levels, said it's a bad idea.

But you coordinated a full-page ad that was in U.S.A. Today answering those charges by these newspapers. And it did some good. You made calls, you wrote letters, and you personally contacted members of Congress, especially in the U.S. Senate.

The new Department of Veterans Affairs really owes its existence to your strong grass roots support, and other veterans organizations certainly did help.

And I want to personally thank you, and that's one reason I came today, to say thanks. You did a magnificent job.

I also want to compliment one of the finest group of people who I have had the privilege of working with on Capitol Hill, the staff of your Washington office. Your very effective spokesman in Butch Joeckel, your executive director, and now national adjutant. We worked with Butch and have worked with him for a number of years. I even have his personal home phone number. How many of you have his personal home phone number? [Laughter.] Not many.

We have developed a close relationship. In fact, we call on Butch about every day talking about matters that affect the veterans.

We are pleased that Butch was promoted to the new position as adjutant. He's an excellent choice and we are proud for him.

And let me say a few words about the fellow who held the position before Butch. And you know I am talking about Dale Adams.

Dale Adams has proven to be one of the most effective leaders in the veterans' world. Through his leadership of over 30 years, the organization has gained both stature and influence. The stability he has provided as adjutant has allowed the organization to grow and has helped it to establish a reputation for integrity. Integrity means a lot up there in Washington, D.C., and really a lot of this credit has to go to Dale Adams, and your support as he was your adjutant.

I'm pleased to know that Dale will be around, we can call on him. And I want you to call on him, but I call on him myself.

I really just can't say enough about Dale Adams, he's been so helpful to me.

And I want to say thank you for letting Dale come our way over these years that I have had the privilege of being in Congress.

In fact, you have a very fine, high caliber staff representing you, and they are professionals. And I want to make this point.

My good friend, Senator Alan Simpson, keeps referring to those professional veterans in Washington. Thank goodness for those professionals in Washington. I wish we had more of them. My job would be a lot easier. [Applause.]

Rick Heilman, your legislative director, testifies before our committee. When Rick Heilman comes up there, I notice when I look around, that the Committee is paying attention. Rick knows the subject, he studies it, he probably is one of the most effective persons on Capitol Hill. Not only in veterans' programs. He can do work for any other organization. And he would be tops. Rick, thank you for a job well done.

One of Rick's secrets is, he learns about the legislation, then he goes to the members, and he goes to the staff, and he goes out in the field to you, and he asks you to contact the different members.

Rick Heilman works at the job. And that's why he's so effective.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to work with Rick. He has a fine staff, also.

Art Wilson, your national service Director, Ron Drach, your national employment director, and Jerry Atchison, your national director of communications. Art runs a first-class claims operation; Ron, employment issues; and Jerry doing your publications. And I know that the DAV Magazine gets out because some of you mentioned to me last night and today that you read about certain areas of legislation we are working on. So the magazine is well covered.

Your Washington staff is well-known on Capitol Hill. Congratulations.

Now let me talk about your next year's DAV national commander, and say first to Gene Murphy, I have enjoyed working with you this year and your other past commanders that are here. Not just because you get out of the system and not be active commander. We still need you, Gene. I know you will be there when we call on you.

Billy Kirby is probably the most respected veterans' advocate in the country. Billy Kirby certainly has a reputation in the Congress. Nobody knows more about veterans and veterans' issues than this individual. And that's for good reason. He served during World War II in the 36th Infantry, Texas division, serving during World War II. For 13 years, he was down in the trenches; he was a veterans' service officer for the DAV. And for 17 years he served on the staff of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. And since I have been chairman, I have used him as a consultant to help us in our committee work.

He happens to be, as you know, from the state of Texas, where people do big things and talk big. There you have got Billy and you have got Oliver Meadows, Tiger Teague, Ray Roberts and Bill Cooper—all Texans—have obtained for our veterans really some of the best legislation that we have in this country or even around the world.

Billy, we are proud to see you reach the important position. It's well deserved.

You know, we need strong veterans' leaders like Billy Kirby. They are really critical times. From various camps, we have seen increased attacks on both veterans and their programs.

I want you to hear this now. We are getting feedbacks where there are calls for phaseout of certain veterans' benefits. We heard veterans' programs referred to as "welfare." That just burns me up every time I hear that word. [Applause.]

We have seen the VA share of federal spending decline over the past ten years. Now the funds have increased, but percentagewise have not risen like some of the other agencies of the federal government.

We have heard calls for the VA hospital system to be abolished. We heard the White House Office of Management and Budget, which quite frankly is not one of my favorites, refer to veterans' programs as low priority.

Listen to this. In fact, OMB places veterans' programs in the same category as subsidized housing and sewage treatment. We might get it cleaned up here.

They've proposed cuts in VA personnel and resources that could have a devastating effect on the agency.

Only recently our Committee discovered through a bit of detective work that the VA has taken 10,000 hospital beds out of operation for a variety of reasons.

Now, we really need answers why this is done. And, you know, speaking to the Veterans Administration, if you need funds—and I know you are clear with the President—the OMB—but if you need funds to run some of these programs, ask for supplemental. The Congress will give you a supplemental to run these hospitals and run these other programs for the VA. Just ask for it.

And don't be fooled into thinking that because the VA is going to be at the Cabinet table that these matters will just go away. They won't. The only thing that will turn back these attacks on the veterans is you, being active.

You have good friends in Congress who are working to protect your programs. But it boils down to you to stay active. Be vocal. Get into the mainstream of this organization. Let your concerns be known. With your help we are going to protect veterans' benefits.

Last Thursday night I was in Mississippi, in West Point, Mississippi, a small community in the northern part of the state, something I like to do. We were dedicating a veterans' memorial for World War I, II, Korean and Vietnam veterans, and some DAV members came up to me with their caps on, and they said, "Did you bring our charter?"

And I said, "What kind of charter?"

"Well, the charter that's on the chapter here in West Point, Mississippi."

I said, "No, but I'll check on it."

So, Butch, find out where their charter is for West Point, Mississippi. They are waiting on it down there." [Laughter.]

So keep going, keep going. I see you writing that down. That's the first thing I ever told you that you wrote down. [Laughter and applause.]

When the Treasury Department indicated it might try to attach VA disability compensation, the DAV confronted them. And this was a bad idea, and it really never saw the light of day. And what's kind of funny about the whole thing, no one over at the Treasury Department would take credit for coming up with that idea.

When Gramm-Rudman, the deficit reduction plan, was being developed, the DAV got involved. Because you spoke out, and with the help of your friends in Congress, I did offer the amendment that exempted most of the veterans' programs from Gramm-Rudman cuts. I wish I would have offered an amendment that would have taken all the veterans' programs out from under Gramm-Rudman. We didn't.

Speaking of Congress, a couple of weeks ago, Claude Pepper of Florida was talking about the Health Care Bill, and members were not paying much attention, and I'm happy to say that you are paying attention to us this morning. And thank you.

But Claude Pepper was talking about this Health Care Bill on the floor of the House, and there was some noise going on. Claude said: "I know a fellow that's 90 years old that has aids." And everybody started listening then. He said, "That 90-year-old man that has aids." [Laughter.]

He said, "He's got one in each ear." [Laughter and applause.]

You know, when the DAV cut its travel allowance kind of in half last year, it left many sick veterans ineligible. Many weren't able to get to the nearest VA hospital. The DAV didn't stand for it. You started your own transportation program. You have donated 24 vans. As I understand it, another 20 vans are in the process of being given to the Veterans Administration to help move these veterans to the hospital. And you were instrumental in helping us get travel pay reinstated for many service-connected and low-income veterans.

And my colleague Jerry Solomon from New York, the ranking minority member on the Veterans Affairs Committee, certainly did push on this pay, restoring travel allowance.

Talking about good staff, we are very proud of Mack Fleming, my general counsel, who will be out here tomorrow, who will address some of the groups here. We are proud of our committee staff in Washington, both Democrat and Republican. We work well together.

Now, one matter I want to particularly bring up. It was done by the DAV. You alerted me by a flurry of letters, and your Washington office asked me to lead a Congressional delegation with DAV officials to Corregidor, in the Philippines, to investigate reports that a specific war memorial had fallen prey to vandals and neglect. And it had. The memorial was in a bad state of repair.

On the spot the DAV pledged $100,000 for the restoration of the memorial and provided the money for the Navy Seabees to go to the island and get the project rolling. Boy, what a great feeling it was. We went to the Secretary of the Navy's office, and your commander was there. And he said, "I will move some Seabees in, but we don't have the money to buy the nails and put the roofing on."

You handed him a check for $36,000. And those Seabees have done some of the work now. So that was certainly a good feeling there to see something actually taking place in the government, and being done so quickly.

As a direct result of the DAV involvement, this memorial to American and Filipino defenders as well as other historic sites in Corregidor is well on the way to being completely restored. And your former adjutant, Dale Adams, really made some good suggestions to me.

I would hope that you would have a chance, whether you fought in that part of the world or not, try to go to Corregidor. A great part of our history is right there.

You helped us get a budget of 28.8 billion dollars for the coming fiscal year, and you contributed greatly to the success of the 100th Congress.

We approved a 4.2 percent compensation to the DIC COLA for this year, and the House will approve a bill tomorrow that will provide a 4.2 percent increase beginning in January. [Applause.]

I'll handle that bill, and if you've got C-SPAN in the hotel, watch at 1:15 central time and you will see us on the House floor pass this compensation, and I hope and I believe that there will not be a single vote against the legislation.

We enacted a major housing reform to help veterans avoid foreclosures and purchase homes in today's high-priced market. We established a permanent GI Bill Education Assistance Program for our veterans and military personnel. And that's really helped save the all-volunteer Army. I'm serious about that. The all-volunteer Army and different other branches are working well, but the GI Peacetime Bill had a lot to do with making this type of volunteer system work.

Over half a million young Americans have signed up for the Peacetime and the GI Bill. 100,000 guardsmen and reserves are going to school under this program.

We extended the Veterans Job Training Act and authorized another 60 million in funding for it. As I understand it, when I get back to Washington, we are having some problems on the appropriations, and we will look into that and see what can be done about getting this program funded.

We set up an additional 525 beds for the homeless veterans. We created an entitlement to outpatient care for certain veterans. We required the VA to come through the Committee before attempting to close and move any vet center. We are going to start paying compensation to certain Atomic veterans which was a DAV-led initiative.

Thank you for supporting that legislation. [Applause.]

We have increased the amount of federal veteran money paid to state-run veterans' homes. And we established incentive pay and training opportunities just to address a very critical nurse shortage.

So that's about it. This water is not strong enough that you gave me out here in Texas, and my voice is about to fade out on me.

Let me thank you for letting me be here. It's good to see so many friends. It does me a good feeling inside when you come up and say, "Well, I saw you, Sonny," in this place or that place. I look forward to seeing you in Washington.

So just keep up with the work that you are doing. If you do that, we will have a good veterans' program for 1989. Thank you. God bless you. [Rising applause.]

Commander MURPHY. I'll tell you what. We truly have a leader in Sonny Montgomery. At this time, let's give Sonny a standing ovation, because he is one of the strongest advocates for veterans.

Sonny, thank you very much. [Rising applause.]

No government agency is quite as important to the DAV as the Veterans Administration. Nearly all the rights and benefits we have earned as disabled vets are administered by this single agency.

The DAV must have a strong, close working relationship with the VA. The stronger that relationship, the better it is for both the agency and the veterans it serves.

The man I'm about to invite to the podium runs that agency. He's General Thomas K. Turnage, Administrator of Veterans Affairs. He took that position two and a half years ago, after four years at the helm of the nation's Selective Service System.

His distinguished military career spanned 39 years, including four tours of active duty. He's a veteran of combat in World War II and Korea, during which time he served two separate tours as commander of the 40th Infantry Division Mechanized.

His military decorations include the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Bronze Star, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Honor. He holds advanced degrees from UCLA and George Washington University. He is a graduate of the Army War College and Harvard's Program for Senior Managers in Government.

Would you please join me in extending a DAV welcome to General Thomas K. Turnage, Administrator of Veterans Affairs. [Rising applause.]

General THOMAS K. TURNAGE. National Commander Murphy; I wanted to recognize Chairman Montgomery, who has departed; Senior Vice-Commander Kirby; National Adjutant Joeckel; National Auxiliary Commander Pearson; National Auxiliary Adjutant Tedrow, distinguished officers of the DAV, honored guests, and friends all:

First of all, I noted that your commander just read a letter of greeting from the Governor of Texas. Please allow me to read from my boss, the President.

> It is a great personal pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to the members of Disabled American Veterans as you gather in Dallas for your 67th Annual Convention. During some of the century's darkest hours, you responded to the nation's call at arms. In so doing, each of you faced grave danger. Many of you suffered greatly, and very nearly losing your lives. Your valor earned you the lasting respect and gratitude of your fellow citizens.
>
> We will never forget your unselfishness nor the honor you brought to yourselves, to your families, and to your country.
>
> By overcoming your disabilities through your efforts to help your fellow disabled veterans and their families, you continue to teach us the meaning of living well by living for others.

At this, your last gathering during my presidency, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you have done for our nation.

In no small way you have helped insure that America will continue to be a beacon of liberty to all, the last best hope on earth.

God bless you always,

RONALD REAGAN.

[Applause.]

Before I proceed with my prepared remarks, please allow me a point of privilege to break with precedent and recognize one of your own, Commander Gene Murphy.

Prior to coming here, I read the current issue of the DAV Magazine. I always review that magazine for information, for its ideas, for its human interest, and sometimes with trepidation. But in any event, Gene Murphy's lead article was a classic, describing his pride in, according to the article, "Going out in style." He expressed it better than I. But suffice it to say, we endorse the VA's achievements during the time of his commandership, and we congratulate him for a job well done.

And as a token of our esteem, both personally and professionally, it is my privilege to present him with the highest award that I'm endowed to present, the Administrator's plaque. [Applause.]

That's very expensive, Gene. I wouldn't tell Jack Anderson about it. [Laughter.]

I'm also pleased to recognize the the promotion of Butch Joeckel to the position of national adjutant. He accomplishes your objectives in an outstanding manner and will continue to serve you well in his new capacity. And I extend congratulations, Butch.

And when I got my job, someone said, "I wonder if it should be congratulations or condolences," because you have a big one. Thank you. [Applause.]

I should point out to Chairman Montgomery that I also have Butch's home telephone number. The thing that's disenchanted me about it is the last time I called it, the reply came back, "We don't accept collect calls." [Laughter.]

You know, the chairman went through the recognition of so many of the leadership in this organization. So I won't be repetitious in some of it. But I would be remiss if I didn't, also, recognize the contribution, the very distinguished contribution made to the DAV by Dale Adams. And I understand that he's here. I understand from speaking with all the leadership that you continue to call upon him for his counsel and his guidance. However, I also understand that since he's been here, they have never seen him so relaxed in his new role.

It's a distinct privilege and pleasure for me to be here in Dallas with you for this convention. I had a number of items that I wanted to discuss with you today, but the more I thought about them, the more I realized that it's often not so much what you talk about, but how people perceive what you are talking about.

It's also embraced in the challenge of communication. And as long as we are down here in Texas, I think one of the best examples of that communication business is manifest in a story I heard about the fellow who kept coming over into south Texas robbing banks. And on one occasion he was caught red-handed by the sheriff, and the sheriff gave chase, and he finally caught the guy 40 miles down in Mexico. But he faced a dilemma. He couldn't speak

Spanish; the robber couldn't speak English. So he finally took him to a local magistrate and said, "Would you help me?"

The magistrate said, "Of course."

He said, "Ask the guy to admit that he's the one I have been chasing for robbing banks in Texas."

The guy said, "Are you the guy that the sheriff has been chasing for robbing banks in Texas?"

The guy said, "Si."

He said, "Yes."

The sheriff said, "Ask him what he did with the money.

He said, "What did you do with the money?"

The guy said: "I will never tell."

He said, "He will never tell."

The sheriff took a big six-shooter out, put it down on the table, and he said, "Tell the guy if he doesn't tell me what he did with the money, I'll kill him on the spot."

The interpreter said: "The sheriff is disenchanted. He wants to know where the money is or he will kill you on the spot."

The robber thought. "I hid the money at the bottom of the well by the road on the way into town."

The interpreter said, "The guy said he's prepared to die." [Laughter.]

Sometimes the matter of perspective on an issue can overwhelm the issue itself. Let me explain that by way of another story.

It's about the American Embassy official who was being taken on a sightseeing tour by his Soviet counterpart. They pulled up before a large, magnificent waterfall, and they got out to take a look. The Soviet said: "Go ahead, jump over."

The American said: "I've got a wife and three kids."

So the Soviet turned to the driver and he said, "You jump over." Whereupon he did. The American, with great compassion and humanism and concern, scrambled over the rocks to the bottom and he found the driver down there ringing out his clothes.

The American asked: "When he told you to jump, why did you jump?"

The guy said: "I've got a wife and three kids." [Laughter.]

Well, the story serves to illustrate that two individuals who share the same goal, when faced with the same dilemma, may take completely different action from one another. An individual's perspective can cause him to end up all wet, or worse.

The same is true in the arena of veterans' affairs. All of us, VA employees, veterans service organizations, the Congress, and the administration have precisely the same goals in mind: quality care and entitlements for America's veterans.

And you would think that would be enough to keep us all on the same page as we go about the business of helping veterans get what they deserve, and what they have earned, which is the distinction that Chairman Montgomery made this morning.

But some continue to take a negative, even a destructive approach to the problem. Lately, we have heard more disparaging voices, both from within and outside the veteran community, saying that the VA is an insensitive bureaucracy, not meeting the needs of the veterans' community, and should not be accorded any greater influence, that their influence is too much already.

You have heard the rhetoric. And these voices have grown stronger as the movement to elevate VA to Cabinet-level status has taken hold.

You have seen it manifest in scores of editorials, about a half a dozen, for example, in the Washington Post alone, the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, and literally dozens more. And I have visited the major ones. And I have written over sixty reclamers to others, as I know that you know your national executive, now adjutant, has done the same thing.

It's amazing what they don't know about our system, but how quick they are to assess their own philosophy of views about it.

And as the Reagan presidency nears the end of its administration of our American government, you will hear more, I'm sure.

Yet when these desperate voices call for a return to the "good old days," or so-called change of direction, which seems to be the current type of language they like to use, they do not seem to have a very good sense of recent history. Their memories are short in their recollection of national morale and pride, national defense, the state of the economy, levels of employment, support for the VA, and on and on ad infinitum.

Again, a story that the president tells should help recall that recall.

There was an old farmer who owned a piece of bottom land, and he decided to do something about it. It was covered with rocks and brush and debris, so he hauled all that away, and he started cultivating and fertilizing and planting. And before too long he had just a beautiful garden out there.

He was so proud of it that one Sunday after church services he invited the minister out to see it. So the minister came out and looked and said, "I've never seen anything like it." He said, "Look at these melons. How the Lord has blessed this land."

"And this corn, and these beans." And he went on and on euphoric about everything.

The old farmer was getting a little fidgety by now and finally the minister said, "Oh, just look what has happened here with the help of the Lord."

The old farmer said: "Reverend, I wish you could have seen this place when the Lord was doing it by himself." [Laughter.]

Well, like that minister, a lot of folks seem to be giving credit or laying blame without regard to the facts. Some may have forgotten the situation that America faced in 1980, 14 percent inflation, double-digit unemployment, record high 21 percent interest rates were choking economic growth and lowering our standard of living.

Just recall what that did to a veteran, or anyone else, for that matter, who simply wanted to buy a home.

An ever-rising Federal tax and regulatory burden was strangling individuals and businesses alike. Declining America prestige and military preparedness were undermining our national security.

The election of Ronald Reagan and George Bush marked the beginning of a dramatic turnaround for America that continues to this day. And I do mean dramatic.

Since 1982, over 17 million jobs have been created in this country. In last month's report the unemployment rate fell to five and a half percent, the lowest since 1974. More importantly, the veterans have even a better record in that unemployment figure.

This month the economy will complete its 69th consecutive month of expansion, an historical record.

And in May, the consumer confidence index was the highest it's been since December of 1969.

Now, under the President's leadership we have turned our economy and our defense posture completely around. And I am proud to serve in this administration.

One of the great things about my job is that I have the opportunity to talk to many groups around this country about matters related to defense and to veterans, two subjects which you are vitally concerned and interested. And as I participated in various discussions around the country, I have noted a distinct change in tone.

Eight years ago there were expressions of deep concern over the condition of our armed forces, and justifiable skepticism about the chances for any improvement.

You and I knew intimately why there were concerns about the so-called "hollow Army," with its numbers and its quality problem. A 20,000 petty officer shortage in the Navy. An exodus from the Air Force of pilots, and highly-trained technicians of non-commissioned officer grades, and on and on, part and parcel of a general national malaise.

A lot of people felt that our Armed Forces were in no condition to be going anywhere.

Well, from those days, I think we all recognize that there's been a turnaround, a tremendous and significant turnaround.

I won't go into detail on the current status of our Armed Forces other than to make this comment. I have frequent occasion to visit active-duty installations, and I am very impressed with what I see. I am in constant contact with Active, National Guard and Reserve commanders throughout the country and the world. And I find that their confidence is profound.

I see quality in manpower, modernization in equipment, sufficiency in material.

I see that President Reagan has kept his promise to strengthen our defense. And Vice-President Bush has been an integral part of that effort.

Today we are living in a stronger America, and a safer world that we were eight years ago, and no one doubts that our strength matches our fortitude. Even so, because of misguided philosophy or loss of memory or political expediency or otherwise, the time has come again when free-flowing voices travel the country and deluge the airwaves with the rhetoric that everything is wrong, and they hold the key to national salvation.

Some of their solutions include the denial of aid to the Contras; court battles to restrict the training of National Guard troops in Honduras, and the veto of legislation designed to bar state scholarship and our student loans to college students who do not register for the draft.

But most critical, in my judgment, is the massive cuts in the defense budget proposed in order to expand social programs.

Well, from one who served in two wars, and over 39 and a half years in the business, I have never seen a social program that could defend the freedom of this nation. I won't forget eight years ago.

If the strategic defense initiative is, as some have said, the final frontier of protecting our country, then veterans entitlements constitute the first frontier of defense. Sustaining the integrity and the morale of our Armed Forces with follow-through veterans' entitlements is clearly, in my mind, an element of defense. Our service people and their families are aware of these programs, and they count on them being here when they are needed.

In their eight years in office, President Reagan and Vice-President Bush have done more, contrary to what critics might say, to improve and enhance veterans' benefits and services than any administration since the last soldiers returned home from the Second World War.

Even in today's environment of bipartisan efforts to cut Federal spending—hear this, please—VA's budget, work force and physical plant are all larger than they have ever been before in history. And compare that to all other government agencies, and Cabinet departments, and you will find out that we have fared very well. Don't listen to me, look at the record.

It will be even bigger in 1989. You heard the congressman say so. But even so, it will not be enough, because since we submitted the '89 budget, the Congress passed new entitlements which will require more money.

Here is the key that you should know. We have already gone to OMB with a request for an amendment to satisfy that need. These facts constitute a certain reaffirmation of the American people's belief that what the VA does is good for America.

Last year—last year, we spent over 770 million dollars to renovate, refurbish and construct new buildings in our system, the greatest amount in real dollars since 1945.

In spite of all that's been accomplished, there are still those who want to criticize. Their answer to all of the alleged shortcomings is always more money and more resources.

Listen to what no less an authority than Sonny Montgomery, your recent visitor, has to say about this, and I quote precisely so that I won't get it wrong.

> If someone were to ask me to identify the most serious problem facing veterans today, it would not be expanded or improved health care resources. It would not be the increase in the aging veteran population and its health care requirements. It would not be the solvency of the home loan guaranty program. In fact, it would not have anything at all to do with the VA and the program that it administers.
>
> The most serious problem facing veterans today is identity. There are generations coming along that have little or no idea who a veteran really is, or what he or she has done that deserves special entitlements and federal programs. In fact, many couldn't care less.
>
> Veterans organizations and the individuals they represent cannot afford to sit back, wait on the attacks on veterans' programs, and then become defensive. You must lead the way, every chapter and post and department and office of every organization is going to have to reach out to the community and say, 'We are here; let's get together.' "
>
> Never miss an opportunity to remind America of who you are. Deliver your message with determination and pride. After all, it's a right that you, above all others, have earned. And it could very well be the lifeblood of your future.

Now, in my judgment, Chairman Montgomery is right on the money. We must take our message to the American people, and it must be a positive and a forceful message. We don't have to sell it. We just have to tell it.

If we allow ourselves to become nothing more than passive reactive targets, the critics will be sniping at us all along.

But I would urge the DAV, responsible organization that it is, to support those programs that will benefit the nation as a whole, and not focus on the narrow issues that will erode public confidence and lead to criticism and the ultimate detriment of the system.

I think that you do that already in so many ways. Your 260 superbly-trained service officers make a vital contribution to the safeguarding and processing of veterans' entitlements.

By the way, someone should ask each of them what they think of judicial review.

Your transportation support of veterans to and from our medical centers is a great service and critical to some who would not have access to medical care otherwise. Those 44 vans at 38 locations are approaching two million miles of service to countless veterans. And, of course, it is a great example of the private-sector initiative so strongly advocated by our Commander-in-Chief, the President.

Your volunteer and auxiliary programs overall are specific examples of services selfishly rendered that could not be afforded if we had to resort to the federal budget process to have those kinds of services. No price tag can adequately measure this kind of a contribution.

Then, of course, your involvement in countless patriotic activities, such as the restoration of the shrine in Corregidor is a great national perpetual contribution. It is absolutely vital that defense and the VA, intricately involved as they are, have public support, Congressional support, and administrative support in order to be allocated to research and resources needed for mission accomplishment. We can't do it in a vacuum.

We currently enjoy the backing of all three of these critical elements, a significant part of which can be attributed to your activities, and your influence.

It should be understood in this process that the philosophy and the convictions and the actions of the nation's leadership is vital.

In that regard, you know that Vice-President Bush, a bona fide combat veteran and war hero with a highly distinguished record, keeps current with veterans' issues by frequent meetings with me, and with representatives of the veterans' service organizations. He is a true friend to veterans. He understands their needs, because he is one.

President Reagan's advocacy for the defense of our country and support for veterans' causes is known to all. In a recent ceremony on the south White House lawn to symbolically decorate POWs from the last three wars, his first words related to the overriding national priority, of full accountability for all of those who still have not returned.

You also know his critical support of the initiative to elevate the VA from agency to Cabinet level.

Regardless of the fact that this issue has been around for 25 to 30 years, he is the first president to have ever endorsed it. And his personal intercession is no doubt the critical catalyst leading to the Senate's favorable reaction to this bill.

That leads to the opportunity to conclude by giving the current status of the VA's projected elevation.

As you are all well aware, the Senate has voted overwhelmingly, as did the House, to bring the VA into the Cabinet. It should be noted here that one of the critical leaders in this initiative, although not stated this morning, was Sonny Montgomery himself. And he will probably be on the committee that sits and establishes the rules of the game and working out the details between the Senate bill and the House bill.

Elevation to Cabinet status does not only provide appropriate recognition for all those who insured the nation's freedom, but also reflects the impact the VA has on so many different aspects of American life.

When you talk about the biggest health care system in the world, 172 hospitals and 232 outpatient clinics and 119 nursing homes and 19 domiciliaries, and on and on and on. You also talk about the fact, as he did, that we trained half the physicians in this country, and the fact that we carry on such great critical research, and we try to, as he suggested, get the word out.

The economic impact by virtue of three million checks a month that we send out. If we miss one, you hear about it. And the fact that we have given almost 13 million guarantees for home loans, and that we have the fifth biggest insurance company in the nation, and that we have given already over 20 million grants for higher education, which is no cost to the nation because ultimately it comes back in benefits to the nation, in intellectual resources as well as tax benefits.

And then finally, the memorial operation is 111 cemeteries, which is the everlasting tribute in the final honor that we can accord the veterans of the nation.

As a bureau, as an independent agency, and soon as a Cabinet department, by whatever name it's known, the VA has always been and it will always be a national resource.

Our programs, people, and activities are woven throughout the fabric of American life, and the American people know that the work that we do benefits not only the veterans of our country, but the country as a whole.

To insure that the special magic continues, it takes all of us working together. The DAV has always played a tremendous role in the partnership for veterans. And that role becomes even more critical for the future of veterans' affairs.

I ask that you continue your work, your advocacy, and continue building on that legacy of corporation for the good of America's veterans. Together we make it happen. Thank you. [Rising applause.]

Commander MURPHY. General Turnage, we would like to thank you for your kind remarks. Again, I know we face many issues together. And I know I can guarantee you, you will hear from the DAV in the future on many of them.

Mr. TED GARCIA. Mr. Chairman, my name is Ted Garcia. I'm from Houston, Texas. And according to the last speaker, he talks about—he put a word or two in——

Commander MURPHY. Excuse me, sir. Excuse me, sir. For what reason are you rising?

Mr. **Garcia**. Rising from a privilege in this convention to say a few words.

Commander **Murphy**. Okay, at this time you would be out of order, sir. Would you please sit down. Thank you.

Mr. **Garcia**. Will you give me the privilege of saying a few words later?

Commander **Murphy**. Under the "new business" we will. Will you please sit down?

Mr. **Garcia**. All right, sir, because I don't think the speaker did speak for everybody.

Commander **Murphy**. Many in Washington view our next speaker as the most effective leader in the veterans' movement. Architect of many forward-looking reforms in veterans' programs, he's played a pivotal role in defending and improving VA medical care, keeping VA compensation payments ahead of inflation, and charting the path toward benefit improvements for numerous special categories of disabled vets.

Last spring, I had the honor to name this leader, Butch Joeckel, as DAV's national adjutant. I know we will have a bright future with Butch as our top staff official. He is also executive director of the DAV's Washington headquarters, a title he's held since 1985.

Butch enlisted in the marines in 1966. In 1968 he was leading a squad on a river patrol when the Viet Cong attacked. During a beach assault, he lost both legs to a land mine explosion. He holds the silver star, the bronze star with Combat V, and the Purple Heart.

After nine months of hospitalization, Butch immediately became an active DAV life member. He studied political science at Towson State College and became a DAV NSO in 1974.

Two years later, he was assigned to the DAV's legislative staff. Appointed deputy national legislative director in 1977, he held that position until he became executive director of the DAV's Washington headquarters.

Would you please welcome Butch to the podium? [Rising applause.]

Adjutant **Joeckel**. Thank you, Gene. Thank you. National Commander Murphy, Administrator Turnage, distinguished guests, and delegates to the 67th National Convention of the DAV, and ladies and gentlemen:

You know, the administrator of veterans affairs opened his remarks by talking about perspectives, how we might see things. And indeed the administrator will be the first to tell you that there are often occasions when the DAV does not see it the way the VA does.

I might also say that I'm pleased that the administrator has agreed to stay so that I can articulate your views and your perspectives.

But before I do, the administrator's remarks reminded me of a story that I think he'll appreciate, and gives a perspective that I think many of our members see.

The administrator works in Washington, and I'm a Washington native. And not too long ago, I was driving on I-95 south and I had to get off the highway to get some gas.

And I pulled up to a one-pump gas station, and an elderly gentleman in bib overalls came out, and he stuck his head in the window.

He says, "You know, I see you work in Washington, D.C., don't you?"

I said, "Yes."

He said, "Yeah, I saw your tag in the back, the little parking sticker, that you can park on Capitol Hill."

He said, "You know, there's a lot of smart, smart people in Washington, ain't they?"

And I thought about it for a few minutes, and I said, "Yes, there are."

And he went on doing the gas and doing the windows, and he come around the other side of the car, and he popped his head in again. And he said, "You know, there's a lot of dumb people in Washington, ain't they?" [Laughter.]

And I thought about that for a few minutes. And I said, "Yes, sir, there are."

And that's when he leaned in and he looked me square in the eye and he said, "Hard to tell the difference, ain't it?" [Laughter and applause.]

We don't care, really, whether it's Vice-President Bush or Governor Dukakis who comes to Washington next January. What we want them to be is smart on veterans' affairs. [Applause.]

Political columnist Walter Lippman once wrote, and I quote: "The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him and other men the conviction and the will to carry on. The genius of a good leader is to leave behind him a situation which common sense, without the grace of genius, can deal with successfully."

Lippman had Franklin D. Roosevelt in mind when he wrote those words. Today they perfectly fit the man who has led this organization for more than a quarter of a century, Denvel Dale Adams. [Applause.]

Today the DAV has the conviction and the will to carry on, serving America's disabled veterans and their families, thanks to the leadership of Dale. Today the DAV is a rock solid, growing and dynamic organization that men and women with common sense can run for the good of all, thanks to the stewardship of Dale Adams.

Today the DAV offers the finest representation and the most comprehensive collection of services to disabled veterans, thanks to the drive, determination and brilliance of Dale Adams.

Today, too, the DAV conducts the most effective legislative program on Capitol Hill, has an organization of volunteers second to none, and enjoys the respect of all whose lives it touches, because of Dale Adams' vision and his example.

Dale will tell you that the credit for all this can't go to him solely. That's true. But the people who've helped him make it all work through the years, people with names like Dwyer, and Cosgriff, and Beaton, and Wentworth, and Maile, Cooper, Huber, Nygaard and Leach. These people can or would have told you they were drawn like moths to the flame by the genius of Dale Adams.

We speak a lot about legacies in the DAV. And, to my mind, one such legacy is etched in stone, rock solid and enduring. It is the legacy of Dale Adams, who took a broken and floundering organization and built it into a strong and vibrant model for service in America.

Dale, no one in this room can hope to match that legacy. No one will surpass the goals for excellence that you have set for the DAV.

My pledge to you, however, is this, that everyone here at our national convention, and each of our chapters and departments across America, will aspire to those goals. We will act as men and women of good common sense, who have been entrusted with a noble legacy, the legacy of the DAV as it is today, thanks to a lifetime of service and dedication of Denvel D. Adams. [Applause.]

What then are the challenges that face our legacy, that threaten the rights of disabled veterans and their families? We have heard the report of the administrator. Now let's get down to the real facts as we see them, the nitty-gritty, so to speak.

Those real facts are many and varied, and they underscore the importance of the continued diligence of our continued advocacy.

We have witnessed the closing of VA hospital beds, some 10,000 or the equivalent of twenty 500-bed VA hospitals. Even as VA leadership goes before the Congress and testifies, they are meeting within limits statutory-mandated bed levels. Cuts in department of veterans' benefits and its staff have passed the 38 percent mark in the last ten years, resulting in long delays and claims of benefit processing time.

Because there are too few staff in virtually all facets of the VA, high-level managers are opening mail in the mail room, nurses are performing custodial duties, telephones go unanswered, and files get lost.

Facilities are getting older and falling apart, even as less money for construction and maintenance is appropriated.

The VA can't purchase the state-of-art health care equipment, can't fix the equipment it's got, can't get the staff to operate that equipment, even if we could get the money.

My friends, that's not good enough.

The tragic list of disabled veterans losing the fight for quality health care could go on. And in response, I have heard the administrator say, "We don't have all we want, but we have all we need." I am not sure that those at the highest level in the VA know really what disabled veterans want. But so long as beds are empty, wards left unstaffed, and services cut, while all the while the VA goes to the Congress and tells them that those beds are up and operating, disabled veterans' needs are not met. [Applause.]

We cannot rely on the VA leadership alone for the aggressive advocacy this nation's disabled veterans deserve. For that advocacy, that loyalty and support, we must rely on our friends in Congress, men and women whose actions demonstrate they understand the cost of war and the price of freedom. That special brand of advocacy, to my mind, is personified by the individual we heard from this morning, Chairman Sonny Montgomery of Mississippi. [Applause.]

It is men like Sonny Montgomery and Jerry Solomon, ranking minority member in the House, who demonstrate that bipartisan advocacy is the rule rather than the exception when it comes to veterans' issues. We have our friends in the Senate as well, Alan Cranston, Chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, Senator Frank Murkowski, ranking minority member of that committee.

Yet even as these and other champions of disabled veterans fight our battles on Capitol Hill, others in Congress conspire to wipe out even our most modest gains.

During the past year, we have heard some senators call us nothing more than professional fund-raising veterans. You know who I mean. I mean the poor, old, bald-headed cowpoke.

Well, I don't know about you, but, frankly, I'm tired of his characterization of veterans as alcoholics who trip over the lemon extract after a three-day bender. And I'm tired of the rhetoric that comes from him in the Senate. And let me put it to you this way. If he's tired of public service, why don't he mount his bald head back up on his horse and go back to Wyoming? [Applause.]

In the House, we have heard from congressmen. Listen to these qualifications. A Harvard law degree, and the fact that they've never worn a uniform, have written in the Wall Street Journal that veterans don't deserve recognition, and wartime disabled veterans haven't earned their disability compensation. Well, that's crap. [Applause.]

I wonder who these clowns are talking about. Is Gene Murphy a professional veteran? Is the money we raise for and spend directly on the nation's finest network of professional service officers somehow tainted? What is it they don't like about us? What don't they like about disabled veterans? What have we given them to fear?

Why would any senator, with almost 900,000 in his reelection campaign war chest, money he will stick in his own pocket when he leaves the Senate, point a finger at our fund-raising efforts? Why is it?

I don't know the answer, other than the fact that there are just those in Congress who refuse to recognize the sacrifices and service of the disabled veterans, who refuse to admit that we are the extension and the cost of war.

Perhaps that's what motivates them. But we don't have to accept it. We will not accept it. We are not intimidated by any administration, by any administrator of Veterans Affairs, let alone a member of Congress, and a bald-headed one from Wyoming. [Applause.]

I'm proud to say that we have committed 25 million dollars directly to service last year. You have read the reports. And I know the millions of dollars the DAV, its departments and chapters is spending to do what it's supposed to do, with our Hospital Service Coordinator Program, National Transportation Network, Older Veterans Assistance program, and Field Service Activities. Perhaps these congressmen and senators have taken the cue from the Office of Management and Budget, which is probably one of the greatest wastes of taxpayers' funds—is the example they follow.

Here is an agency that continues to turn out their old bureaucratic reports on cost cutting based on statistics few people believe and even fewer accept.

Again, fortunately for disabled veterans, OMB doesn't call the shots with its twisted point of view and pie-in-the-sky statistics. Fortunately, too, Capitol Hill recognizes how unrealistic OMB proposals are. That's why they are never adopted by the Congress.

The facts are that the DAV will have to continue fighting foolish proposals from foolish people. Other people will continue to turn their backs on those who performed honorable service for America.

And we will continue to grab them by the shoulders and turn them around and make them face our service and sacrifice. The DAV is a ship whose course is true, its destination unchanged.

We are keeping the watch on behalf of America's disabled veterans and their families. The vigilance of that watch will not lessen.

Each of us has a job to do. Our membership must remain strong, active, and growing. The partnership we forged with the auxiliary will be tested and found unshakable by the challenges we mutually face in the future.

As I begin this year's national adjutancy, these are the facts that will sustain me.

I know that the DAV has in its professional staff, in Cincinnati, with Tom Dehne, and all of the Washington staff, the finest collection of dedicated men and women any organization could ever have. [Applause.]

I know, too, that no organization has a more active committed and loyal membership than the DAV. We have a track record of success. We have the talent, commitment, and spirit of our membership. We have the support of a grateful nation.

We have a job to do, a tough, demanding job. We are going to get it done, and get it done better than anyone. That's what we do best. We are the DAV. Thank you. [Rising applause.]

Commander MURPHY. Thank you for an outstanding report. At this time I'd like to entertain a motion to accept the report. Mike 1.

Mr. PAUL THOMPSON. Comrade Commander, Mike 1. Paul Thompson, past national commander, the great state of Maryland.

We have heard the very informative report of our national adjutant and executive director of the Washington office. He has told us about challenges that we face, the objectives that we must reach, and of the things that we must do to make this organization the great organization it's been over the past, and with new leadership we must get behind them and do much more.

And at this time I'd like to make a motion that we accept this most outstanding report with a rising vote of thanks to our national adjutant and executive director.

Commander MURPHY. Thank you. Mike 2.

Mr. ALBERT H. LINDEN. Al Linden, delegate, chapter 93, Florida, would like to second that motion for the outstanding report from our national adjutant, Butch Joeckel.

Commander MURPHY. Mike 3.

Mr. JOSEPH HAROLD. Comrade Commander, Harold, Boston, 10. I believe the motion made by the past national commander was out of order. He went up and spoke on the motion, and then he made the motion to accept the report. I think we should train our past national commanders proper in a better sense than that.

If Al Linden wants to go up and make the motion directly to accept that with a rising vote of thanks I will be happy to second it. [Laughter.]

Commander MURPHY. I will call Mike 3 out of order. On the question. All in favor say Aye. All against Nay. So moved. [Applause.]

[The above-mentioned reports follow:]

ANNUAL REPORT ARTHUR H. WILSON, NATIONAL SERVICE DIRECTOR

National Commander Murphy, Reverend Clergy, National Officers, distinguished guests, delegates, members and good friends of the Disabled American Veterans.

As your National Service Director, I am very pleased to present to you, the delegates to this 67th National Convention, the Annual Report of the National Service Department.

I am very excited about the accomplishments of the National Service Department. National Service Officers across this nation have obtained over a billion dollars in annual and retroactive benefits for you and your families. And I must tell you, getting a billion dollars in benefits wasn't easy; it was obtained through the hard work and commitment of your National Service Officers.

The spirit which drives our National Service Officers began many years ago and grew out of a sense of desperation.

Following World War I, 300,000 veterans returned to civilian life wounded, disabled or sick. They needed immediate help in the form of medical care, vocational training, and compensation. While government agencies tried to be of assistance, they failed miserably.

Medical care was deplorable. In veterans' hospitals disabled and sick men were sleeping on the floors. There were not enough doctors and nurses to properly care for them. The Disability Compensation Program was in disarray. Veterans entitled to disability payments were not receiving them; those receiving compensation were not treated fairly in that the disability ratings were unequal and/or inadequate.

These were terrible times for veterans who had sacrificed their minds and bodies for this nation. Veterans needed a champion to protect their best interest. DAV was formed to do just that and continues to lead the movement for disabled veterans and their families.

We in the National Service Department view it as our moral obligation to protect your best interest and to make sure you receive everything you are entitled to under the law. To accomplish these goals, the National Service Department has 265 National Service Officers in 67 locations across the United States. All of them are wartime disabled veterans and over 95% are Vietnam veterans. We believe disabled veterans should lookout for disabled veterans. If we don't—no one else will.

The DAV is an action organization and is in the business of providing direct assistance to you, our nation's service-connected veterans and their families.

Our programs are marked by practical solutions and are free of charge. I would like to share with you some facts that speak to the heart of the DAV—who we are and what we do.

The final report to this Convention will contain the 12 month figures for all National Service Office activities. However, some of the major accomplishments and highlights achieved between July 1, 1987 and May 31, 1988 are as follows:

During this period DAV National Service Officers conducted more than 195,368 interviews, processed 177,213 new claims, appeared before the VA Adjudication Boards 204,154 times and obtained $1,154,543,059 in annual and retroactive monetary benefits. Other major achievements for you by your National Service Officers are:

NSOS AT VA INSURANCE CENTERS

Because of the efforts provided by DAV representatives, at the VA Insurance Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and St. Paul, Minnesota, 501 veterans were granted waiver of premiums due to total disability and 3,484 had their waiver of premiums continued. National Service Officers at both of these locations reviewed 4,413 insurance files and appeared before the Veterans Administration on 4,445 occasions.

PHYSICAL EVALUATION BOARDS

The DAV provides representation to active duty personnel appearing before the Physical Evaluation Boards. For the period from June 1987 thru May 1988, our efforts resulted in 353 decisions granting or continuing disability retirement benefits.

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS

During the reporting period National Service Officers represented over 255 claimants with the Social Security Administration at the local level resulting in payments of over $3,853,159. The official record will show that you cannot get better representation before the Social Security Administration than that provided by DAV National Service Officers.

DAV'S NATIONAL APPEALS OFFICE

A statistical profile provided by the Veterans Administration clearly shows that the demand for DAV representation continues to increase. During fiscal year 1987 the DAV represented 16,080 or 38.9% of all the cases considered by the Board of Veterans Appeals and 14.1% were favorable. DAV success rate exceeds the BVA's overall allowance rate of 12.8%. Also, during the first quarter of FY 1988 we represented 47.3% of all cases considered by the Board of Veterans Appeals. This is further evidence of the increased demand for the services of DAV National Service Officers. There are basic reasons why disabled veterans and their families seek out DAV NSOs for assistance. They are compassionate, technical experts; they do not preselect cases like some other organizations/attorneys and our services are free.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

National Service Officers frequently refer extremely complex cases to National Service and Legislative Headquarters for presentation to VA Central Office. Of the cases submitted, 83% were favorably resolved. This is an extremely successful program and further indication of our NSOs technical competence.

FIELD SERVICE UNIT

The DAV operates a nationwide Field Service Unit Program, for veterans who can't get to VA Regional Offices or DAV Service Offices. These mobile office equipped vans have assisted more than 460,000 veterans and their families in their hometowns since the program's inception in 1974. During the calendar year of 1987, National Service Officers assisted 23,519 veterans and their families.

EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

This program provides grants to disabled veterans and their families facing financial emergencies. Almost $8 million has been dispensed to 50,000 individuals since the program's inception in 1973.

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

This program provides financial assistance to disabled veterans and their families in recovering from the immediate effects of natural disasters. More than $2 million has been dispersed to almost 4,000 claimants since the program began in 1968.

THE OLDER VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Because of the aging veterans' population, a community based support network of DAV volunteers work to meet the broad range of needs facing these veterans. Currently more than 10,242 registered DAV/DAVA volunteers are at work assisting older veterans in all 50 states. The National Organization of the DAV, its state departments, local chapters and auxiliary units are earnestly committed to this program.

DAV'S HOSPITAL SERVICE COORDINATOR PROQRAM

National Service Officers have devoted a great deal of their own time assisting in the development and implementation of the DAV's Hospital Service Coordinator Program. This program provides for the placement of a DAV employed individual in each of the VA's 172 medical facilities around the country. The HSC's job is to advise veteran patients of the full range of service available to them, assist those with transportation in getting to doctor and clinic appointments and provide such other assistance that may be required. Our National Service Officers are delighted to have been able to play a major role in making this program successful.

DAV'S STRUCTURED AND CONTINUING TRAINING PROGRAM

Last year we officially announced the DAV's Training Program for rehabilitated National Service Officers. As we stated, it makes use of the latest technological equipment including interactive computer programs, audio and video tape presentations of course material and utilizes advanced teaching methods. This program was designed to ensure National Service Officers continue to offer the best representation available. While the first cycle of the program will not be completed until September 1989, our monitoring procedures clearly show it is tremendously successful and popular with our National Service Officers. Test results confirm the excellent design of the program and are an indication the Training Program will achieve our goals.

COMPUTER AND TELECOPIER NETWORKS

All DAV Offices are automated. We are now able to communicate with each other, National Headquarters and participating Departments on issues important to veterans and their families. In addition to telecommunications through the telecopier network, we are also able to communicate through our computers located in each National Service Office. Because of these computers, our offices are and have been performing such tasks as word processing, training, accessing membership and personnel information and other business activities.

The DAV is committed to you. This is clearly supported by the brief descriptions we have given on some of the programs which fall under the jurisdiction of the National Service Department. We are a great organization and our greatness can be measured by the people who make it great. In that respect I would like to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to Mr. Denvel D. Adams, who announced his retirement this year, for his intellect, personal commitment and tremendous leadership ability which have made the DAV what it is today. Without Mr. Adams, there is no doubt in my mind we would not have.been able to provide the kind of services described in this report. He will be missed but I am sure he will continue to offer us his wisdom and counsel in the years to come.

Also, I would like to express my appreciation to Peter Dudish, Robert Petzold, F. Rex Martin and James R. Howard who have recently retired from DAV employment. I thank them for their commitment and loyalty to this organization over the years.

A special thanks to Harold Woods, who retired last year, for the contribution he has made as a National Service Officer and as a very effective member of the National Employment Department.

I would also like to personally acknowledge and express my thanks to the National Finance Committee and the National Executive Committee for their continued support for the National Service Program.

It has been a great pleasure and distinct honor to work with National Commander Gene Murphy and Auxiliary National Commander Katherine Pearson during the past year.

To our National Adjutant and Executive Director of the Washington Office, Charles E. Joeckel, Jr., I offer my congratulations for doing a job and doing it well. Because of your experience, personal commitment, sensitivity to the needs of those we serve and your strong leadership qualities the DAV remains ready, willing and able to meet the challenges of the present and future for and on behalf of disabled veterans and their families. To you I simply say thanks for your support and guidance.

My special thanks to Auxiliary National Adjutant Maria Tedrow and her staff for their support of our program.

I would certainly be remiss if I did not extend a warm and personal thanks to my own staff—Jesse Brown, Charlie Thompson and the most recent member Edward Kowalczyk. With the addition of Mr. Kowalczyk we now have over 83 years of experience working in your behalf.

The cooperation between the Washington and Cincinnati Offices is excellent. This positive relationship which is felt throughout the DAV allows us to remain an action organization with the ability to expand our efforts in order to accommodate the changing conditions of those who were injured or disabled during their active military service. Of course, I would like to thank the entire staff at the Washington Headquarters for their continued support.

This vast responsibility would not be possible without your assistance and cooperation. I congratulate you for your continued service to your Department, Chapter, the National Organization and for serving as an inspiration to the nation and members of your community.

You are living proof we in the Disabled American Veterans and the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary make a difference. Because of that difference, we can make sure no one forgets the price you have paid for our nation's freedom.

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

Total National Service Office Report:

1. New Service Connections	12,099
2. Compensation Increases	38,302
3. Compensation Maintained	86,045
4. Pension	19,260
5. Pension Maintained	9,298
6. Social Security	578
7. Education Benefits	15,863
8. Miscellaneous	2,278
9. Death Compensation	3,947
10. Death Pension	5,581
11. Insurance	1,778
12. Burial Alowances	15,716
13. Total Awards	210,745
14. Total Monthly Increases	$104,565,491.05
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$1,245,620,809.45
16. Full Amount	$1,350,186,300.50
17. VA Files Reviewed	369,462
18. Power of Attorney	90,152
19. Interviews	213,292
20. Rating Board Appearances	224,531
21. New Claims	194,568
22. Membership	14,741

Montgomery, Alabama:

1. New Service Connections	287
2. Compensation Increases	925
3. Compensation Maintained	2,140
4. Pension	517
5. Pension Maintained	171
6. Social Security	16
7. Education Benefits	334
8. Miscellaneous	46
9. Death Compensation	63
10. Death Pension	128
11. Insurance	36
12. Burial Alowances	264
13. Total Awards	4,927
14. Total Monthly Increases	$1,854,916.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$21,216,338.00
16. Full Amount	$23,071,254.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	7,103
18. Power of Attorney	1,455
19. Interviews	2,956
20. Rating Board Appearances	5,324
21. New Claims	2,127
22. Membership	154

Phoenix, Arizona:

1. New Service Connections	413
2. Compensation Increases	982
3. Compensation Maintained	1,795
4. Pension	385
5. Pension Maintained	263
6. Social Security	9
7. Education Benefits	451
8. Miscellaneous	32
9. Death Compensation	122
10. Death Pension	63

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

11. Insurance	0
12. Burial Alowances	328
13. Total Awards	4,843
14. Total Monthly Increases	$1,941,593.85
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$23,792,168.57
16. Full Amount	$25,733,762.42
17. VA Files Reviewed	8,824
18. Power of Attorney	2,011
19. Interviews	4,104
20. Rating Board Appearances	6,901
21. New Claims	3,838
22. Membership	171

Little Rock, Arkansas:

1. New Service Connections	180
2. Compensation Increases	626
3. Compensation Maintained	1,295
4. Pension	920
5. Pension Maintained	118
6. Social Security	12
7. Education Benefits	315
8. Miscellaneous	25
9. Death Compensation	98
10. Death Pension	232
11. Insurance	22
12. Burial Alowances	297
13. Total Awards	4,140
14. Total Monthly Increases	$1,267,823.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$16,476,100.00
16. Full Amount	$17,743,923.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	7,253
18. Power of Attorney	1,555
19. Interviews	3,104
20. Rating Board Appearances	3,846
21. New Claims	1,946
22. Membership	148

W.Los Angeles, California:

1. New Service Connections	226
2. Compensation Increases	873
3. Compensation Maintained	2,752
4. Pension	2,094
5. Pension Maintained	41
6. Social Security	14
7. Education Benefits	400
8. Miscellaneous	78
9. Death Compensation	124
10. Death Pension	424
11. Insurance	86
12. Burial Alowances	442
13. Total Awards	7,554
14. Total Monthly Increases	$2,644,333.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$32,595,365.00
16. Full Amount	$35,239,698.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	12,863
18. Power of Attorney	4,514
19. Interviews	6,672
20. Rating Board Appearances	7,442
21. New Claims	8,676
22. Membership	694

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

San Diego, California:

1. New Service Connections	960
2. Compensation Increases	640
3. Compensation Maintained	1,498
4. Pension	392
5. Pension Maintained	44
6. Social Security	11
7. Education Benefits	1,063
8. Miscellaneous	155
9. Death Compensation	114
10. Death Pension	24
11. Insurance	18
12. Burial Alowances	62
13. Total Awards	4,981
14. Total Monthly Increases	$2,118,907.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$25,993,691.00
16. Full Amount	$28,112,598.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	10,565
18. Power of Attorney	2,922
19. Interviews	16,773
20. Rating Board Appearances	3,415
21. New Claims	5,518
22. Membership	1,027

San Francisco, California:

1. New Service Connections	482
2. Compensation Increases	706
3. Compensation Maintained	2,646
4. Pension	141
5. Pension Maintained	60
6. Social Security	9
7. Education Benefits	534
8. Miscellaneous	95
9. Death Compensation	69
10. Death Pension	30
11. Insurance	27
12. Burial Alowances	368
13. Total Awards	5,167
14. Total Monthly Increases	$2,762,082.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$28,280,544.00
16. Full Amount	$31,042,626.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	6,926
18. Power of Attorney	2,174
19. Interviews	4,407
20. Rating Board Appearances	5,406
21. New Claims	3,536
22. Membership	460

Denver, Colorado:

1. New Service Connections	423
2. Compensation Increases	569
3. Compensation Maintained	1,328
4. Pension	189
5. Pension Maintained	125
6. Social Security	10
7. Education Benefits	449
8. Miscellaneous	57
9. Death Compensation	61
10. Death Pension	87
11. Insurance	21

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

12. Burial Alowances	329
13. Total Awards	3,648
14. Total Monthly Increases	$1,433,909.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$18,432,227.00
16. Full Amount	$19,866,136.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	6,017
18. Power of Attorney	2,569
19. Interviews	1,849
20. Rating Board Appearances	4,382
21. New Claims	2,955
22. Membership	372

Hartford, Connecticut:

1. New Service Connections	69
2. Compensation Increases	377
3. Compensation Maintained	752
4. Pension	57
5. Pension Maintained	8
6. Social Security	6
7. Education Benefits	18
8. Miscellaneous	23
9. Death Compensation	17
10. Death Pension	7
11. Insurance	4
12. Burial Alowances	186
13. Total Awards	1,524
14. Total Monthly Increases	$838,937.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$9,285,365.00
16. Full Amount	$10,124,302.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	4,597
18. Power of Attorney	540
19. Interviews	1,546
20. Rating Board Appearances	2,824
21. New Claims	1,362
22. Membership	262

Wilmington, Delaware:

1. New Service Connections	43
2. Compensation Increases	158
3. Compensation Maintained	128
4. Pension	136
5. Pension Maintained	0
6. Social Security	6
7. Education Benefits	140
8. Miscellaneous	10
9. Death Compensation	17
10. Death Pension	23
11. Insurance	2
12. Burial Alowances	47
13. Total Awards	710
14. Total Monthly Increases	$266,561.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$2,858,199.70
16. Full Amount	$3,124,760.70
17. VA Files Reviewed	4,140
18. Power of Attorney	191
19. Interviews	1,576
20. Rating Board Appearances	1,004
21. New Claims	1,087
22. Membership	638

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

Washington, D.C.:

1. New Service Connections	264
2. Compensation Increases	592
3. Compensation Maintained	1,249
4. Pension	42
5. Pension Maintained	41
6. Social Security	4
7. Education Benefits	34
8. Miscellaneous	14
9. Death Compensation	59
10. Death Pension	18
11. Insurance	0
12. Burial Alowances	170
13. Total Awards	2,487
14. Total Monthly Increases	$1,173,302.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$12,969,066.00
16. Full Amount	$14,142,368.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	5,156
18. Power of Attorney	1,549
19. Interviews	3,610
20. Rating Board Appearances	2,603
21. New Claims	2,691
22. Membership	253

St.Petersburg, Florida:

1. New Service Connections	942
2. Compensation Increases	3,141
3. Compensation Maintained	8,818
4. Pension	1,833
5. Pension Maintained	1,219
6. Social Security	11
7. Education Benefits	67
8. Miscellaneous	178
9. Death Compensation	412
10. Death Pension	358
11. Insurance	236
12. Burial Alowances	1,512
13. Total Awards	18,727
14. Total Monthly Increases	$7,543,862.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$95,024,148.00
16. Full Amount	$102,568,010.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	33,028
18. Power of Attorney	8,479
19. Interviews	5,909
20. Rating Board Appearances	17,592
21. New Claims	18,984
22. Membership	476

Atlanta, Georgia:

1. New Service Connections	154
2. Compensation Increases	592
3. Compensation Maintained	1,401
4. Pension	101
5. Pension Maintained	112
6. Social Security	1
7. Education Benefits	31
8. Miscellaneous	29
9. Death Compensation	59
10. Death Pension	18
11. Insurance	18

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

12. Burial Alowances	212
13. Total Awards	2,728
14. Total Monthly Increases	$1,136,118.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$14,374,084.00
16. Full Amount	$15,510,202.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	5,129
18. Power of Attorney	1,271
19. Interviews	2,763
20. Rating Board Appearances	2,783
21. New Claims	12,000
22. Membership	107

Honolulu, Hawaii:

1. New Service Connections	76
2. Compensation Increases	112
3. Compensation Maintained	254
4. Pension	3
5. Pension Maintained	6
6. Social Security	4
7. Education Benefits	24
8. Miscellaneous	1
9. Death Compensation	20
10. Death Pension	7
11. Insurance	10
12. Burial Alowances	40
13. Total Awards	557
14. Total Monthly Increases	$241,127.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$3,636,638.00
16. Full Amount	$3,877,765.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	1,242
18. Power of Attorney	152
19. Interviews	1,512
20. Rating Board Appearances	488
21. New Claims	1,372
22. Membership	36

Boise, Idaho:

1. New Service Connections	178
2. Compensation Increases	332
3. Compensation Maintained	603
4. Pension	51
5. Pension Maintained	11
6. Social Security	7
7. Education Benefits	220
8. Miscellaneous	12
9. Death Compensation	26
10. Death Pension	17
11. Insurance	7
12. Burial Alowances	99
13. Total Awards	1,563
14. Total Monthly Increases	$614,706.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$7,590,763.00
16. Full Amount	$8,205,469.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	2,984
18. Power of Attorney	1,135
19. Interviews	1,927
20. Rating Board Appearances	1,616
21. New Claims	2,808
22. Membership	80

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

Chicago, Illinois:

1. New Service Connections	285
2. Compensation Increases	1,072
3. Compensation Maintained	2,201
4. Pension	523
5. Pension Maintained	181
6. Social Security	20
7. Education Benefits	261
8. Miscellaneous	51
9. Death Compensation	76
10. Death Pension	97
11. Insurance	36
12. Burial Alowances	392
13. Total Awards	5,195
14. Total Monthly Increases	$2,114,191.70
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$24,046,871.67
16. Full Amount	$26,161,063.37
17. VA Files Reviewed	10,192
18. Power of Attorney	2,529
19. Interviews	4,407
20. Rating Board Appearances	8,260
21. New Claims	4,188
22. Membership	300

Indianapolis, Indiana:

1. New Service Connections	177
2. Compensation Increases	581
3. Compensation Maintained	1,259
4. Pension	196
5. Pension Maintained	222
6. Social Security	17
7. Education Benefits	407
8. Miscellaneous	41
9. Death Compensation	73
10. Death Pension	125
11. Insurance	15
12. Burial Alowances	320
13. Total Awards	3,533
14. Total Monthly Increases	$1,307,741.63
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$15,572,630.26
16. Full Amount	$16,880,371.89
17. VA Files Reviewed	5,061
18. Power of Attorney	1,022
19. Interviews	2,147
20. Rating Board Appearances	4,203
21. New Claims	2,903
22. Membership	439

Des Moines, Iowa:

1. New Service Connections	97
2. Compensation Increases	414
3. Compensation Maintained	907
4. Pension	254
5. Pension Maintained	82
6. Social Security	2
7. Education Benefits	140
8. Miscellaneous	148
9. Death Compensation	53
10. Death Pension	63
11. Insurance	70

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

12. Burial Alowances	305
13. Total Awards	2,535
14. Total Monthly Increases	$792,589.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$10,467,575.00
16. Full Amount	$11,260,164.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	4,614
18. Power of Attorney	786
19. Interviews	1,564
20. Rating Board Appearances	3,006
21. New Claims	1,901
22. Membership	531

Wichita, Kansas:

1. New Service Connections	149
2. Compensation Increases	430
3. Compensation Maintained	616
4. Pension	199
5. Pension Maintained	137
6. Social Security	30
7. Education Benefits	271
8. Miscellaneous	59
9. Death Compensation	30
10. Death Pension	69
11. Insurance	35
12. Burial Alowances	130
13. Total Awards	2,155
14. Total Monthly Increases	$785,778.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$9,903,338.00
16. Full Amount	$10,689,116.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	4,869
18. Power of Attorney	747
19. Interviews	3,220
20. Rating Board Appearances	1,367
21. New Claims	251
22. Membership	192

Louisville, Kentucky:

1. New Service Connections	207
2. Compensation Increases	370
3. Compensation Maintained	1,250
4. Pension	437
5. Pension Maintained	79
6. Social Security	2
7. Education Benefits	229
8. Miscellaneous	20
9. Death Compensation	46
10. Death Pension	200
11. Insurance	10
12. Burial Alowances	471
13. Total Awards	3,321
14. Total Monthly Increases	$1,708,214.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$16,286,565.00
16. Full Amount	$17,994,779.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	8,528
18. Power of Attorney	2,264
19. Interviews	993
20. Rating Board Appearances	7,368
21. New Claims	5,494
22. Membership	110

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

New Orleans, Louisiana:

1. New Service Connections	165
2. Compensation Increases	473
3. Compensation Maintained	1,080
4. Pension	195
5. Pension Maintained	93
6. Social Security	6
7. Education Benefits	386
8. Miscellaneous	24
9. Death Compensation	45
10. Death Pension	44
11. Insurance	13
12. Burial Alowances	140
13. Total Awards	2,664
14. Total Monthly Increases	$1,067,232.25
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$11,755,618.69
16. Full Amount	$12,822,850.94
17. VA Files Reviewed	3,654
18. Power of Attorney	1,602
19. Interviews	3,549
20. Rating Board Appearances	3,219
21. New Claims	3,332
22. Membership	223

Togus, Maine:

1. New Service Connections	46
2. Compensation Increases	321
3. Compensation Maintained	834
4. Pension	375
5. Pension Maintained	3
6. Social Security	0
7. Education Benefits	176
8. Miscellaneous	4
9. Death Compensation	24
10. Death Pension	49
11. Insurance	4
12. Burial Alowances	38
13. Total Awards	1,874
14. Total Monthly Increases	$976,161.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$10,524,591.00
16. Full Amount	$11,500,752.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	1,260
18. Power of Attorney	263
19. Interviews	1,425
20. Rating Board Appearances	645
21. New Claims	466
22. Membership	249

Baltimore, Maryland:

1. New Service Connections	93
2. Compensation Increases	375
3. Compensation Maintained	499
4. Pension	99
5. Pension Maintained	21
6. Social Security	2
7. Education Benefits	59
8. Miscellaneous	9
9. Death Compensation	27
10. Death Pension	20
11. Insurance	8

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

12. Burial Alowances	92
13. Total Awards	1,304
14. Total Monthly Increases	$552,358.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$6,971,770.00
16. Full Amount	$7,524,128.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	1,901
18. Power of Attorney	330
19. Interviews	1,479
20. Rating Board Appearances	1,052
21. New Claims	460
22. Membership	128

Boston, Massachusetts:

1. New Service Connections	345
2. Compensation Increases	1,393
3. Compensation Maintained	2,485
4. Pension	254
5. Pension Maintained	365
6. Social Security	14
7. Education Benefits	61
8. Miscellaneous	11
9. Death Compensation	156
10. Death Pension	142
11. Insurance	66
12. Burial Alowances	547
13. Total Awards	5,839
14. Total Monthly Increases	$2,135,225.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$25,454,229.00
16. Full Amount	$27,589,454.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	17,324
18. Power of Attorney	1,919
19. Interviews	7,890
20. Rating Board Appearances	9,273
21. New Claims	3,195
22. Membership	333

Detroit, Michigan:

1. New Service Connections	202
2. Compensation Increases	1,032
3. Compensation Maintained	1,700
4. Pension	1,162
5. Pension Maintained	272
6. Social Security	23
7. Education Benefits	636
8. Miscellaneous	42
9. Death Compensation	127
10. Death Pension	485
11. Insurance	87
12. Burial Alowances	539
13. Total Awards	6,307
14. Total Monthly Increases	$2,063,340.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$23,194,733.05
16. Full Amount	$25,258,073.05
17. VA Files Reviewed	5,431
18. Power of Attorney	1,898
19. Interviews	3,141
20. Rating Board Appearances	2,558
21. New Claims	7,497
22. Membership	133

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

St Paul, Minnesota:

1. New Service Connections	224
2. Compensation Increases	684
3. Compensation Maintained	1,175
4. Pension	264
5. Pension Maintained	34
6. Social Security	4
7. Education Benefits	579
8. Miscellaneous	190
9. Death Compensation	92
10. Death Pension	123
11. Insurance	134
12. Burial Alowances	276
13. Total Awards	3,779
14. Total Monthly Increases	$2,026,503.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$17,308,589.00
16. Full Amount	$19,335,092.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	6,547
18. Power of Attorney	1,117
19. Interviews	1,605
20. Rating Board Appearances	4,447
21. New Claims	6,117
22. Membership	96

Jackson, Mississippi:

1. New Service Connections	129
2. Compensation Increases	386
3. Compensation Maintained	1,218
4. Pension	152
5. Pension Maintained	122
6. Social Security	3
7. Education Benefits	180
8. Miscellaneous	7
9. Death Compensation	40
10. Death Pension	29
11. Insurance	3
12. Burial Alowances	185
13. Total Awards	2,454
14. Total Monthly Increases	$948,345.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$11,683,264.00
16. Full Amount	$12,631,609.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	1,197
18. Power of Attorney	1,031
19. Interviews	1,807
20. Rating Board Appearances	1,337
21. New Claims	2,980
22. Membership	94

St Louis, Missouri:

1. New Service Connections	227
2. Compensation Increases	841
3. Compensation Maintained	2,553
4. Pension	499
5. Pension Maintained	441
6. Social Security	7
7. Education Benefits	331
8. Miscellaneous	50
9. Death Compensation	56
10. Death Pension	126
11. Insurance	20

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

12. Burial Alowances	369
13. Total Awards	5,520
14. Total Monthly Increases	$2,208,804.36
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$24,476,504.88
16. Full Amount	$26,685,309.24
17. VA Files Reviewed	7,022
18. Power of Attorney	1,936
19. Interviews	1,881
20. Rating Board Appearances	4,585
21. New Claims	5,885
22. Membership	521

Kansas City, Missouri:

1. New Service Connections	0
2. Compensation Increases	0
3. Compensation Maintained	0
4. Pension	0
5. Pension Maintained	0
6. Social Security	0
7. Education Benefits	0
8. Miscellaneous	0
9. Death Compensation	0
10. Death Pension	0
11. Insurance	0
12. Burial Alowances	0
13. Total Awards	0
14. Total Monthly Increases	$0.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$0.00
16. Full Amount	$0.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	50
18. Power of Attorney	730
19. Interviews	6,083
20. Rating Board Appearances	30
21. New Claims	723
22. Membership	137

Fort Harrison, Montana:

1. New Service Connections	57
2. Compensation Increases	242
3. Compensation Maintained	381
4. Pension	75
5. Pension Maintained	25
6. Social Security	12
7. Education Benefits	58
8. Miscellaneous	4
9. Death Compensation	15
10. Death Pension	13
11. Insurance	24
12. Burial Alowances	87
13. Total Awards	993
14. Total Monthly Increases	$500,721.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$5,242,952.26
16. Full Amount	$5,743,673.26
17. VA Files Reviewed	743
18. Power of Attorney	371
19. Interviews	3,273
20. Rating Board Appearances	532
21. New Claims	432
22. Membership	74

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

Lincoln, Nebraska:

1. New Service Connections	63
2. Compensation Increases	217
3. Compensation Maintained	451
4. Pension	112
5. Pension Maintained	49
6. Social Security	21
7. Education Benefits	158
8. Miscellaneous	3
9. Death Compensation	23
10. Death Pension	26
11. Insurance	18
12. Burial Alowances	124
13. Total Awards	1,265
14. Total Monthly Increases	$477,725.29
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$5,972,602.33
16. Full Amount	$6,450,327.62
17. VA Files Reviewed	1,081
18. Power of Attorney	552
19. Interviews	1,337
20. Rating Board Appearances	933
21. New Claims	625
22. Membership	11

Reno, Nevada:

1. New Service Connections	56
2. Compensation Increases	243
3. Compensation Maintained	340
4. Pension	102
5. Pension Maintained	18
6. Social Security	0
7. Education Benefits	212
8. Miscellaneous	31
9. Death Compensation	21
10. Death Pension	10
11. Insurance	0
12. Burial Alowances	100
13. Total Awards	1,133
14. Total Monthly Increases	$367,530.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$4,283,171.00
16. Full Amount	$4,650,701.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	1,594
18. Power of Attorney	574
19. Interviews	1,267
20. Rating Board Appearances	1,244
21. New Claims	442
22. Membership	131

Manchester, New Hampshire:

1. New Service Connections	100
2. Compensation Increases	195
3. Compensation Maintained	604
4. Pension	29
5. Pension Maintained	32
6. Social Security	1
7. Education Benefits	167
8. Miscellaneous	27
9. Death Compensation	41
10. Death Pension	12
11. Insurance	11

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

12. Burial Alowances	111
13. Total Awards	1,330
14. Total Monthly Increases	$858,239.07
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$7,256,940.28
16. Full Amount	$8,115,179.35
17. VA Files Reviewed	1,418
18. Power of Attorney	285
19. Interviews	1,170
20. Rating Board Appearances	802
21. New Claims	804
22. Membership	50

Newark, New Jersey:

1. New Service Connections	257
2. Compensation Increases	931
3. Compensation Maintained	1,481
4. Pension	110
5. Pension Maintained	99
6. Social Security	3
7. Education Benefits	95
8. Miscellaneous	48
9. Death Compensation	69
10. Death Pension	54
11. Insurance	5
12. Burial Alowances	295
13. Total Awards	3,447
14. Total Monthly Increases	$1,527,780.50
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$17,640,601.00
16. Full Amount	$19,168,381.50
17. VA Files Reviewed	12,629
18. Power of Attorney	1,274
19. Interviews	4,558
20. Rating Board Appearances	5,211
21. New Claims	6,550
22. Membership	185

Albuquerque, New Mexico:

1. New Service Connections	192
2. Compensation Increases	428
3. Compensation Maintained	1,223
4. Pension	1,547
5. Pension Maintained	18
6. Social Security	21
7. Education Benefits	590
8. Miscellaneous	4
9. Death Compensation	93
10. Death Pension	265
11. Insurance	13
12. Burial Alowances	207
13. Total Awards	4,601
14. Total Monthly Increases	$2,083,453.93
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$21,583,279.17
16. Full Amount	$23,666,733.10
17. VA Files Reviewed	4,559
18. Power of Attorney	894
19. Interviews	2,758
20. Rating Board Appearances	2,119
21. New Claims	2,678
22. Membership	315

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

New York, New York:

1. New Service Connections	276
2. Compensation Increases	1,533
3. Compensation Maintained	3,606
4. Pension	332
5. Pension Maintained	1,500
6. Social Security	3
7. Education Benefits	117
8. Miscellaneous	46
9. Death Compensation	128
10. Death Pension	315
11. Insurance	11
12. Burial Alowances	500
13. Total Awards	8,367
14. Total Monthly Increases	$3,817,671.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$48,032,341.00
16. Full Amount	$51,850,012.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	11,112
18. Power of Attorney	2,085
19. Interviews	5,812
20. Rating Board Appearances	6,328
21. New Claims	2,308
22. Membership	326

Albany, New York:

1. New Service Connections	0
2. Compensation Increases	0
3. Compensation Maintained	0
4. Pension	0
5. Pension Maintained	0
6. Social Security	8
7. Education Benefits	0
8. Miscellaneous	0
9. Death Compensation	0
10. Death Pension	0
11. Insurance	0
12. Burial Alowances	0
13. Total Awards	8
14. Total Monthly Increases	$3,976.10
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$103,604.02
16. Full Amount	$107,580.12
17. VA Files Reviewed	109
18. Power of Attorney	298
19. Interviews	1,428
20. Rating Board Appearances	0
21. New Claims	980
22. Membership	39

Buffalo, New York:

1. New Service Connections	127
2. Compensation Increases	518
3. Compensation Maintained	2,392
4. Pension	118
5. Pension Maintained	302
6. Social Security	3
7. Education Benefits	496
8. Miscellaneous	30
9. Death Compensation	39
10. Death Pension	39
11. Insurance	10

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

12. Burial Alowances	187
13. Total Awards	4,261
14. Total Monthly Increases	$2,116,371.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$23,965,480.00
16. Full Amount	$26,081,851.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	9,416
18. Power of Attorney	1,014
19. Interviews	1,436
20. Rating Board Appearances	6,347
21. New Claims	2,593
22. Membership	139

Syracuse, New York:

1. New Service Connections	0
2. Compensation Increases	0
3. Compensation Maintained	0
4. Pension	0
5. Pension Maintained	0
6. Social Security	26
7. Education Benefits	0
8. Miscellaneous	0
9. Death Compensation	0
10. Death Pension	0
11. Insurance	0
12. Burial Alowances	0
13. Total Awards	26
14. Total Monthly Increases	$11,458.10
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$396,408.70
16. Full Amount	$407,866.80
17. VA Files Reviewed	536
18. Power of Attorney	353
19. Interviews	2,464
20. Rating Board Appearances	0
21. New Claims	4,173
22. Membership	95

Winston-Salem, North Carolina:

1. New Service Connections	198
2. Compensation Increases	900
3. Compensation Maintained	1,398
4. Pension	116
5. Pension Maintained	197
6. Social Security	12
7. Education Benefits	423
8. Miscellaneous	14
9. Death Compensation	60
10. Death Pension	59
11. Insurance	12
12. Burial Alowances	244
13. Total Awards	3,633
14. Total Monthly Increases	$1,490,068.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$16,683,828.50
16. Full Amount	$18,173,896.50
17. VA Files Reviewed	5,488
18. Power of Attorney	2,241
19. Interviews	3,060
20. Rating Board Appearances	4,019
21. New Claims	4,088
22. Membership	106

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

Fargo, North Dakota:

1. New Service Connections	85
2. Compensation Increases	215
3. Compensation Maintained	285
4. Pension	157
5. Pension Maintained	36
6. Social Security	9
7. Education Benefits	390
8. Miscellaneous	10
9. Death Compensation	29
10. Death Pension	74
11. Insurance	18
12. Burial Alowances	108
13. Total Awards	1,416
14. Total Monthly Increases	$486,743.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$5,442,747.45
16. Full Amount	$5,929,490.45
17. VA Files Reviewed	3,065
18. Power of Attorney	630
19. Interviews	1,480
20. Rating Board Appearances	858
21. New Claims	1,087
22. Membership	167

Cleveland, Ohio:

1. New Service Connections	314
2. Compensation Increases	1,477
3. Compensation Maintained	3,519
4. Pension	555
5. Pension Maintained	469
6. Social Security	0
7. Education Benefits	355
8. Miscellaneous	11
9. Death Compensation	196
10. Death Pension	336
11. Insurance	123
12. Burial Alowances	998
13. Total Awards	8,353
14. Total Monthly Increases	$3,333,657.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$41,555,042.00
16. Full Amount	$44,888,699.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	19,301
18. Power of Attorney	3,351
19. Interviews	8,147
20. Rating Board Appearances	14,783
21. New Claims	2,890
22. Membership	528

Cincinnati, Ohio:

1. New Service Connections	0
2. Compensation Increases	0
3. Compensation Maintained	0
4. Pension	0
5. Pension Maintained	0
6. Social Security	7
7. Education Benefits	0
8. Miscellaneous	0
9. Death Compensation	0
10. Death Pension	0
11. Insurance	0

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

12. Burial Alowances	0
13. Total Awards	7
14. Total Monthly Increases	$3,425.10
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$83,692.60
16. Full Amount	$87,117.70
17. VA Files Reviewed	251
18. Power of Attorney	540
19. Interviews	2,720
20. Rating Board Appearances	139
21. New Claims	2,576
22. Membership	112

Muskogee, Oklahoma:

1. New Service Connections	334
2. Compensation Increases	1,004
3. Compensation Maintained	1,675
4. Pension	920
5. Pension Maintained	281
6. Social Security	11
7. Education Benefits	649
8. Miscellaneous	7
9. Death Compensation	134
10. Death Pension	212
11. Insurance	11
12. Burial Alowances	449
13. Total Awards	5,687
14. Total Monthly Increases	$1,796,176.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$31,332,923.55
16. Full Amount	$33,129,099.55
17. VA Files Reviewed	9,881
18. Power of Attorney	1,836
19. Interviews	3,176
20. Rating Board Appearances	3,519
21. New Claims	4,019
22. Membership	143

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma:

1. New Service Connections	0
2. Compensation Increases	0
3. Compensation Maintained	0
4. Pension	0
5. Pension Maintained	0
6. Social Security	2
7. Education Benefits	0
8. Miscellaneous	0
9. Death Compensation	0
10. Death Pension	0
11. Insurance	0
12. Burial Alowances	0
13. Total Awards	2
14. Total Monthly Increases	$1,471.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$41,193.10
16. Full Amount	$42,664.10
17. VA Files Reviewed	21
18. Power of Attorney	904
19. Interviews	4,040
20. Rating Board Appearances	4
21. New Claims	815
22. Membership	102

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

Portland, Oregon:

1. New Service Connections	122
2. Compensation Increases	497
3. Compensation Maintained	1,023
4. Pension	157
5. Pension Maintained	127
6. Social Security	7
7. Education Benefits	361
8. Miscellaneous	16
9. Death Compensation	51
10. Death Pension	68
11. Insurance	27
12. Burial Alowances	248
13. Total Awards	2,704
14. Total Monthly Increases	$1,213,582.99
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$15,047,461.94
16. Full Amount	$16,261,044.93
17. VA Files Reviewed	5,244
18. Power of Attorney	777
19. Interviews	1,855
20. Rating Board Appearances	3,699
21. New Claims	2,009
22. Membership	126

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:

1. New Service Connections	308
2. Compensation Increases	1,022
3. Compensation Maintained	2,514
4. Pension	411
5. Pension Maintained	105
6. Social Security	12
7. Education Benefits	270
8. Miscellaneous	31
9. Death Compensation	87
10. Death Pension	87
11. Insurance	211
12. Burial Alowances	534
13. Total Awards	5,592
14. Total Monthly Increases	$1,959,374.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$25,926,988.00
16. Full Amount	$27,886,362.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	6,760
18. Power of Attorney	2,135
19. Interviews	3,081
20. Rating Board Appearances	3,745
21. New Claims	3,065
22. Membership	110

Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania:

1. New Service Connections	0
2. Compensation Increases	0
3. Compensation Maintained	0
4. Pension	0
5. Pension Maintained	0
6. Social Security	0
7. Education Benefits	0
8. Miscellaneous	0
9. Death Compensation	0
10. Death Pension	0
11. Insurance	0

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

12. Burial Alowances	0
13. Total Awards	0
14. Total Monthly Increases	$0.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$0.00
16. Full Amount	$0.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	534
18. Power of Attorney	192
19. Interviews	3,653
20. Rating Board Appearances	51
21. New Claims	2,221
22. Membership	144

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania:

1. New Service Connections	251
2. Compensation Increases	801
3. Compensation Maintained	3,208
4. Pension	324
5. Pension Maintained	250
6. Social Security	12
7. Education Benefits	20
8. Miscellaneous	88
9. Death Compensation	70
10. Death Pension	140
11. Insurance	9
12. Burial Alowances	336
13. Total Awards	5,509
14. Total Monthly Increases	$1,969,229.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$23,848,733.00
16. Full Amount	$25,817,962.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	8,784
18. Power of Attorney	1,967
19. Interviews	2,649
20. Rating Board Appearances	5,751
21. New Claims	3,801
22. Membership	367

San Juan, Puerto Rico:

1. New Service Connections	12
2. Compensation Increases	400
3. Compensation Maintained	982
4. Pension	46
5. Pension Maintained	71
6. Social Security	1
7. Education Benefits	3
8. Miscellaneous	2
9. Death Compensation	16
10. Death Pension	8
11. Insurance	0
12. Burial Alowances	3
13. Total Awards	1,544
14. Total Monthly Increases	$1.931.418.10
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$23'100.511.10
16. Full Amount	$25.031.929.20
17. VA Files Reviewed	2,896
18. Power of Attorney	274
19. Interviews	4,668
20. Rating Board Appearances	1,510
21. New Claims	206
22. Membership	166

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

Providence, Rhode Island:

1. New Service Connections	68
2. Compensation Increases	258
3. Compensation Maintained	746
4. Pension	57
5. Pension Maintained	42
6. Social Security	5
7. Education Benefits	93
8. Miscellaneous	2
9. Death Compensation	29
10. Death Pension	16
11. Insurance	4
12. Burial Alowances	99
13. Total Awards	1,419
14. Total Monthly Increases	$595,229.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$6,940,232.00
16. Full Amount	$7,535,461.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	2,976
18. Power of Attorney	527
19. Interviews	2,739
20. Rating Board Appearances	1,756
21. New Claims	844
22. Membership	79

Columbia, South Carolina:

1. New Service Connections	184
2. Compensation Increases	368
3. Compensation Maintained	865
4. Pension	135
5. Pension Maintained	83
6. Social Security	6
7. Education Benefits	318
8. Miscellaneous	43
9. Death Compensation	25
10. Death Pension	39
11. Insurance	27
12. Burial Alowances	193
13. Total Awards	2,286
14. Total Monthly Increases	$904,525.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$11,613,432.00
16. Full Amount	$12,517,957.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	2,498
18. Power of Attorney	1,219
19. Interviews	2,205
20. Rating Board Appearances	1,472
21. New Claims	2,994
22. Membership	135

Sioux Falls, South Dakota:

1. New Service Connections	44
2. Compensation Increases	231
3. Compensation Maintained	301
4. Pension	106
5. Pension Maintained	32
6. Social Security	0
7. Education Benefits	162
8. Miscellaneous	29
9. Death Compensation	10
10. Death Pension	10
11. Insurance	10

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

12. Burial Alowances	66
13. Total Awards	1,001
14. Total Monthly Increases	$368,958.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$4,425,030.70
16. Full Amount	$4,793,988.70
17. VA Files Reviewed	1,332
18. Power of Attorney	254
19. Interviews	834
20. Rating Board Appearances	730
21. New Claims	800
22. Membership	234

Nashville, Tennessee:

1. New Service Connections	124
2. Compensation Increases	514
3. Compensation Maintained	1,233
4. Pension	408
5. Pension Maintained	135
6. Social Security	1
7. Education Benefits	148
8. Miscellaneous	22
9. Death Compensation	42
10. Death Pension	75
11. Insurance	2
12. Burial Alowances	166
13. Total Awards	2,870
14. Total Monthly Increases	$1,136,398.57
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$13,594,800.48
16. Full Amount	$14,731,199.05
17. VA Files Reviewed	3,701
18. Power of Attorney	1,302
19. Interviews	1,562
20. Rating Board Appearances	2,847
21. New Claims	1,635
22. Membership	125

Dallas, Texas:

1. New Service Connections	0
2. Compensation Increases	0
3. Compensation Maintained	0
4. Pension	0
5. Pension Maintained	0
6. Social Security	6
7. Education Benefits	0
8. Miscellaneous	4
9. Death Compensation	0
10. Death Pension	0
11. Insurance	5
12. Burial Alowances	0
13. Total Awards	15
14. Total Monthly Increases	$4,098.57
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$130,529.77
16. Full Amount	$134,628.34
17. VA Files Reviewed	318
18. Power of Attorney	996
19. Interviews	4,198
20. Rating Board Appearances	22
21. New Claims	677
22. Membership	131

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

El Paso, Texas:

1. New Service Connections	0
2. Compensation Increases	0
3. Compensation Maintained	0
4. Pension	0
5. Pension Maintained	0
6. Social Security	2
7. Education Benefits	0
8. Miscellaneous	0
9. Death Compensation	0
10. Death Pension	0
11. Insurance	0
12. Burial Alowances	0
13. Total Awards	2
14. Total Monthly Increases	$422.20
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$18,046.90
16. Full Amount	$18,469.10
17. VA Files Reviewed	207
18. Power of Attorney	361
19. Interviews	2,359
20. Rating Board Appearances	14
21. New Claims	481
22. Membership	60

Houston, Texas:

1. New Service Connections	332
2. Compensation Increases	1,412
3. Compensation Maintained	2,779
4. Pension	322
5. Pension Maintained	141
6. Social Security	9
7. Education Benefits	433
8. Miscellaneous	52
9. Death Compensation	93
10. Death Pension	99
11. Insurance	20
12. Burial Alowances	430
13. Total Awards	6,122
14. Total Monthly Increases	$2,437,707.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$31,869,646.00
16. Full Amount	$34,307,353.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	13,713
18. Power of Attorney	1,485
19. Interviews	3,655
20. Rating Board Appearances	9,776
21. New Claims	2,708
22. Membership	288

San Antonio, Texas:

1. New Service Connections	0
2. Compensation Increases	0
3. Compensation Maintained	0
4. Pension	0
5. Pension Maintained	0
6. Social Security	26
7. Education Benefits	0
8. Miscellaneous	0
9. Death Compensation	0
10. Death Pension	0
11. Insurance	0

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

12. Burial Alowances	0
13. Total Awards	26
14. Total Monthly Increases	$14,795.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$429,855.00
16. Full Amount	$444,650.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	488
18. Power of Attorney	1,959
19. Interviews	7,635
20. Rating Board Appearances	79
21. New Claims	3,077
22. Membership	395

Waco, Texas:

1. New Service Connections	459
2. Compensation Increases	2,144
3. Compensation Maintained	3,266
4. Pension	414
5. Pension Maintained	112
6. Social Security	10
7. Education Benefits	847
8. Miscellaneous	68
9. Death Compensation	244
10. Death Pension	194
11. Insurance	77
12. Burial Alowances	938
13. Total Awards	8,773
14. Total Monthly Increases	$3,418,570.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$41,851,825.53
16. Full Amount	$45,270,395.53
17. VA Files Reviewed	13,311
18. Power of Attorney	3,889
19. Interviews	4,166
20. Rating Board Appearances	7,654
21. New Claims	4,359
22. Membership	331

Salt Lake City, Utah:

1. New Service Connections	128
2. Compensation Increases	436
3. Compensation Maintained	1,236
4. Pension	148
5. Pension Maintained	46
6. Social Security	1
7. Education Benefits	300
8. Miscellaneous	48
9. Death Compensation	39
10. Death Pension	48
11. Insurance	3
12. Burial Alowances	118
13. Total Awards	2,551
14. Total Monthly Increases	$1,060,410.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$12,510,946.00
16. Full Amount	$13,571,356.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	3,249
18. Power of Attorney	486
19. Interviews	2,574
20. Rating Board Appearances	1,983
21. New Claims	706
22. Membership	116

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

White River Junction, Vermont:

1. New Service Connections	31
2 Compensation Increases	91
3 Compensation Maintained	261
4. Pension	25
5 Pension Maintained	3
6. Social Security	7
7. Education Benefits	20
8. Miscellaneous	0
9. Death Compensation	16
10. Death Pension	11
11. Insurance	0
12. Burial Alowances	82
13. Total Awards	547
14. Total Monthly Increases	$249,535.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$2,981,686.00
16. Full Amount	$3,231,221.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	1,586
18. Power of Attorney	330
19. Interviews	1,644
20. Rating Board Appearances	911
21. New Claims	1,129
22. Membership	135

Roanoke, Virginia:

1. New Service Connections	184
2. Compensation Increases	653
3. Compensation Maintained	2,170
4. Pension	217
5. Pension Maintained	186
6. Social Security	25
7. Education Benefits	223
8. Miscellaneous	87
9. Death Compensation	60
10. Death Pension	36
11. Insurance	69
12. Burial Alowances	294
13. Total Awards	4,204
14. Total Monthly Increases	$1,691,705.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$21,846,562.00
16. Full Amount	$23,538,267.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	11,512
18. Power of Attorney	1,385
19. Interviews	8,766
20. Rating Board Appearances	6,119
21. New Claims	2,996
22. Membership	251

Seattle, Washington:

1. New Service Connections	246
2. Compensation Increases	421
3. Compensation Maintained	996
4. Pension	381
5. Pension Maintained	469
6. Social Security	9
7. Education Benefits	465
8. Miscellaneous	21
9. Death Compensation	83
10. Death Pension	226
11. Insurance	17

RECAPITULATION OF SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

12. Burial Alowances	113
13. Total Awards	3,447
14. Total Monthly Increases	$1,981,587.70
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$20,638,512.64
16. Full Amount	$22,620,100.34
17. VA Files Reviewed	4,588
18. Power of Attorney	2,303
19. Interviews	1,767
20. Rating Board Appearances	3,631
21. New Claims	4,833
22. Membership	284

Huntington, West Virginia:

1. New Service Connections	66
2. Compensation Increases	412
3. Compensation Maintained	681
4. Pension	115
5. Pension Maintained	66
6. Social Security	14
7. Education Benefits	113
8. Miscellaneous	18
9. Death Compensation	13
10. Death Pension	24
11. Insurance	7
12. Burial Alowances	152
13. Total Awards	1,681
14. Total Monthly Increases	$708,336.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$9,088,427.20
16. Full Amount	$9,796,763.20
17. VA Files Reviewed	3,967
18. Power of Attorney	551
19. Interviews	1,894
20. Rating Board Appearances	2,982
21. New Claims	620
22. Membership	66

Milwaukee, Wisconsin:

1. New Service Connections	405
2. Compensation Increases	1,563
3. Compensation Maintained	1,780
4. Pension	323
5. Pension Maintained	125
6. Social Security	36
7. Education Benefits	489
8. Miscellaneous	92
9. Death Compensation	104
10. Death Pension	70
11. Insurance	36
12. Burial Alowances	308
13. Total Awards	5,331
14. Total Monthly Increases	$1,896,424.14
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$19,336,671.51
16. Full Amount	$21,233,095.65
17. VA Files Reviewed	6,190
18. Power of Attorney	1,596
19. Interviews	2,942
20. Rating Board Appearances	5,339
21. New Claims	3,705
22. Membership	143

Cheyenne, Wyoming:

1. New Service Connections	33
2. Compensation Increases	79
3. Compensation Maintained	213
4. Pension	28
5. Pension Maintained	8
6. Social Security	0
7. Education Benefits	92
8. Miscellaneous	9
9. Death Compensation	11
10. Death Pension	7
11. Insurance	10
12. Burial Alowances	66
13. Total Awards	556
14. Total Monthly Increases	$239,297.00
15. Total Retroactive Payments	$2,728,528.00
16. Full Amount	$2,967,825.00
17. VA Files Reviewed	927
18. Power of Attorney	271
19. Interviews	421
20. Rating Board Appearances	646
21. New Claims	350
22. Membership	168

ANNUAL REPORT OF JOHN F. HEILMAN, NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

National Commander Murphy, Distinguished Guests and delegates to this National Convention:

It is a distinct honor and privilege to present to this 67th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans the Annual Report of the National Department of Legislation.

Once again, I can report to you that the primary legislative mission of the DAV—to protect and improve America's system of benefits and services for our nation's service-connected disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors—has been pursued with vigor and effectiveness since we last met one year ago.

In the fall of last year and thus far in 1988, we have achieved enactment into law of several major veterans' program improvements, including several DAV legislative initiatives, the most notable of which has provided long-awaited service-connected disability and death benefit entitlements to veterans, and to the survivors of veterans, who were exposed to ionizing radiation during their military service—the so called "Atomic Veteran." And we have focused considerable attention and effort on a long-time goal of the DAV—Cabinet level status for the Veterans Administration.

As an indication of the scope and intensity of DAV legislative activity this past year, consider that our organization has presented testimony to Committees of the United States Congress having jurisdiction over veterans' issues on 30 separate occasions. The subject matter of this testimony has covered virtually every benefit program that the VA has to offer veterans, their dependents and survivors.

In addition to DAV legislative staff personnel, our organization's "lobbying force" has included National Commander Gene A. Murphy, National Adjutant/Executive Director "Butch" Joeckel, and Employment Director Ron Drach. Also, as in prior years, DAV Department officials and National Service Officers have participated in local "field hearings" held in various locations throughout the country.

Finally, and most importantly, have been the personal lobbying efforts of you—our DAV and DAVA memberships. Your efforts, both individually and collectively, have demonstrated time and again that, in America, individual input does influence governmental decisions.

We must not lose sight of this if our organization is to be able to preserve what VA benefits we already have and successfully lobby for what we shall need in the future.

MAJOR VETERANS' LEGISLATION ENACTED INTO LAW SINCE THE 66TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

THE VETERANS' HOME LOAN PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS AND PROPERTY REHABILITATION ACT OF 1987 (PUBLIC LAW 100–198, ENACTED DECEMBER 21. 1987)

This measure protected the integrity of the VA's Home Loan Guaranty Program and the interests of its veteran participants by:

Revising the loan guaranty formula from 60% to 50% on loans for conventional housing under $45,000 and from 60% to 40% on loans over $45,000, with a maximum guarantee of $36,000 and a minimum of $22,500. Also changed is the guarantee for manufactured housing from 50% to 40% with a 5% down payment requirement.

Providing for more effective servicing on delinquent loans to help veterans avoid foreclosure.

Extending the VA's property acquisition formula for three years and revising administrative proceedings to provide more equitable treatment of lenders in certain foreclosure situations.

Changing the percentage of VA acquired properties that must be financed from at least 60% but not more than 75% to at least 50% but not more than 65% for a period of three years.

Redefining occupancy requirements for active duty service members and others for refinancing and loan origination purposes.

Encouraging organizations and political subdivisions to acquire difficult to sell foreclosed properties to assist homeless veterans and authorizing the Administrator to discount properties for that purpose. Also, 25% discounts on foreclosed properties, sold to organizations who agree to employ veterans through the Veterans Job Training Act to rehabilitate the property, will be authorized.

Facilitating the veteran's release from liability when a VA loan is assumed by ensuring that the new purchaser is creditworthy. Also, a one-half percent fee on assumed loans is imposed for a two year period.

Exempting the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program from any future sequestration under the Gramm/Rudman/Hollings Balanced Budget Act.

Authorizing the Administrator to market foreclosed properties by listing them with real estate brokers.

THE CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1988 (PUBLIC LAW 100–202, ENACTED DECEMBER 22, 1987)

This measure authorized the appropriation of $27 billion to fund VA benefits and services during Fiscal Year 1988 (10/1/87 through 9/30/88) as follows in the major program accounts of:

Compensation and Pension—$14.3 billion
Medical Care—$10.1 billion
Readjustment Penefits $625 million
General Operating Expenses—$762 million
Major Construction—$402 million
Medical and Prosthetic Research—$193 million

THE VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 1987 (PUBLIC LAW 100–227, ENACTED DECEMBER 31, 1987)

This measure, at a cost of $307 million in Fiscal Year 1988, authorized:

A 4.2% across-the-board increase in the rates of VA service-connected disability and death (DIC) compensation benefits, as well as the dependency allowances, clothing allowance and special statutory awards (excluding the "k" award) that apply to these programs, effective 12/1/87.

A six month extension (to June 30, 1988) in the deadline for training application under the Veterans Job Training Act (VJTA).

An increase in the annual number of applications (from 2,500 to 3,500) from nonservice-connected pension recipients that can be considered by the VA for vocational rehabilitation training.

THE EMERGENCY, MANDATORY VETERANS' SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 1988 (PUBLIC LAW 100–304, ENACTED APRIL 29, 1988)

This emergency supplemental appropriations measure provided $709.1 million for VA entitlement programs in Fiscal Year 1988 as follows:

$526.6 million for the VA Home Loan Guaranty Revolving Fund.

$182.5 million for Chapter 34 (G.I. Bill) educational subsistence allowances.

THE RADIATION EXPOSED VETERANS' COMPENSATION ACT OF 1988 (PUBLIC LAW 100-321, ENACTED MAY 20, 1988)

This most important measure, effective 5/1/S8, provides a presumption of service-connection for disability benefits to veterans (and service connected death benefits to survivors of such veterans) who participated in atmospheric or underwater nuclear tests or in the American occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki, Japan for the following conditions:

1. Leukemia (other than chronic lymphocytic)
2. Cancer of the thyroid
3. Cancer of the breast
4. Cancer of the pharynx
5. Cancer of the esophagus
6. Cancer of the stomach
7. Cancer of the small intestine
8. Cancer of the pancreas
9. Multiple myeloma
10. Lymphomas (except Hodgkins' Disease)
11. Cancer of the bile ducts
12. Cancer of the gall bladder
13. Primary liver cancer (except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated)

The presumption period for purposes of benefits paid under this legislation is the 40 year period beginning on the last date on which the veteran participated in a radiation risk activity, except that such period shall be a 30 year period in the case of leukemia.

THE VETERANS' BENEFITS AND SERVICES ACT OF 1988 (PUBLIC LAW 100-322, ENACTED MAY 20, 1988)

This multi-provisioned measure provided important liberalizations and new benefits and services in a variety of VA programs as follows:

BENEFICIARY TRAVEL

Amends Section 111, Title 38, United States Code, however, continues to leave discretionarv the Administrator's authority to provide beneficiary travel payments. Should the Administrator choose to utilize this authority, then eligibility for payment would be extended to veterans:

a) for treatment of a service-connected disability;
b) rated service-connected 30% or more;
c) in receipt of pension;
d) whose annual income is not greater than the maximum annual rate of pension;
e) who are unable to defray the cost of travel;
f) requiring special mode of transportation based on a medical determination and are unable to defray the expense;
g) scheduled for compensation or pension examinations; and
h) as the Administrator may determine by regulation.

If the Administrator decides to exercise the authority to make payments the following conditions and deductibles will apply:

a) $3 for a one way trip (reimbursement is at the rate of 11 cents per mile, thus a veteran would have to travel approximately 27 miles, one-way, to satisfy the deductible) deducted from the amount otherwise payable;
b) monthly cap for pre approved "frequent traveler" is $18 monthly;
c) does not apply to scheduled compensation and pension examinations or special mode of transportation;
d) procedures will exist for waiving the deductible when financial hardship exists; and
e) the deductible will be modified by the same percentage as beneficiary travel payments may be increased.

Special mode of transportation will be provided when authorized in advance or when an emergency exists that precluded prior authorization. However, payment may be provided without eligibility determination, subject to recovery from the veteran. Furthermore, the VA may pay if the veteran is unable to defray the cost in the absence of any prior authorization.

The Administrator is required, in consultation and coordination with the Secretary of Transportation and VSO's, to take all appropriate steps to facilitate the establishment and maintenance of local voluntary transportation networks.

All beneficiary travel provisions are effective May 20, 1988, date of enactment.

OUTPATIENT TREATMENT

Amends Section 612(a) and (f), mandating (as in Public Law 99-272 regarding inpatient hospital care) outpatient treatment to be provided—effective July 1, 1988—to:

a) any veteran for a service-connected disability;

b) any service-connected disabled veteran rated 50% or more, for any disability; and

c) any veteran disabled as a result of VA treatment or while pursuing vocational rehabilitation (Section 351, Title 38, U.S.C.).

Also, outpatient treatment is mandated to be provided for the purpose of obviating the need or in preparation for hospital admission or to complete treatment following a period of hospitalization to:

a) any service-connected disabled veteran rated at 30% or 40%; and

b) any veteran whose annual income does not exceed the maximum (currently $9,940 for a single veteran) annual rate of pension payable to a veteran in need of aid and attendance.

Finally, outpatient treatment mav be provided to other veterans in the following priority order (those veterans listed above having first priority):

a) service connected disabled veterans rated less than 30%; or veterans undergoing compensation or pension examinations;

b) former prisoners of war or veterans claiming exposure to Agent Orange or ionizing radiation;

c) Mexican Border or World War I veterans and veterans in receipt of increased pension or compensation based on A&A or housebound benefits;

d) veterans with incomes above the pension A&A level ($9,940) but not above the category A threshold ($15,833 for a single veteran and $18,999 for veterans with one dependent).

VET CENTERS

Repeals current law requiring mandatory transition date and requirement for Vet Centers to be relocated to VA medical centers.

Requires the Administrator to formulate—based on recommendations by the Chief Medical Director—and submit to Congress a national plan setting forth plans (i.e., relocation to VA medical centers, movement to another location, closures) for each Vet Center. The plan must include detailed criteria such as demographics, availability of parking, cost analysis, etc., as well as plans to open any new Vet Centers.

VA can take no action relating to any Vet Center until 120 days after Congressional receipt of the national plan.

VA may revise the national plan but take no action regarding the proposed revision until 60 days after Congressional receipt of the proposed revision.

The Chief Medical Director may not delegate responsibility for the recommendations of the national plan.

Postpones for one year, until April 1, 1988, the due date of VA's report on the effectiveness of the Readjustment Counseling Program and directs the VA to complete the process of converting to career or career conditional status readjustment counseling service field employees.

OTHER IMPORTANT PROVISIONS

Directs that the General Accounting Office conduct a study of the current and potential (as well as suppressed) demand of category A veterans for outpatient care.

Clarifies eligibility for domiciliary care, specifically the income thresholds and preference given to service connected disabled veterans.

Provides fee-basis medical care for service-connected veterans residing outside the United States, specifically, Canadian citizens residing in Canada but who are veterans of the U. S. Armed Forces.

Reduces the POW internment period from six months to 90 days for outpatient dental care eligibility.

Extends until September 30, 1991, the Adult Day Health Care Program.

Authorizes a two year pilot program using mobile health clinics for eligible veterans residing at least 100 miles from the nearest VA medical facility. A total of eight mobile clinics, geographically disbursed, are subject to annual appropriations of $5 million for Fiscal Years 1989 and 1990.

Authorizes a contract community based residential care pilot program through September 30, 1989 for homeless, chronically mentally ill veterans and requires reports for Fiscal Years 1989-1991 on efforts of VA activities to assist homeless veterans.

Requires the VA to report on the resource allocation methodology as it effects treatment of psychiatric illnesses for Fiscal Year 1986-88.

Provides for (1) the confidentiality of AIDS patients' records; (2) non-discrimination in admission policies for the treatment of AIDS; (3) AIDS information and training for veterans and VA employees; (4) the prohibition of widespread testing for AIDS; and (5) permits voluntary AIDS testing.

Permits use of VA name and agency seal by any approved organization in conjunction with special recreational activities, including public and private medical facilities under VA contract.

Restricts VA's authority (Title 38, U. S. C., Section 621) to prescribe limitations on furnishing VA health care, except in national or geographic specific emergencies.

Increases per diem rates for state veterans' homes and authorizes such increases on an annual basis.

Adds mental illness research as a specific VA research mission.

Requires conversion of 500 acute care hospital beds in urban areas to be used as domiciliary beds for homeless veterans.

Requires improvement in health care quality assurance programs and activities.

Authorizes the creation of nonprofit corporations at each VA medical center which receives significant research monies from non-VA sources.

Establishes a nursing home revolving fund for monies realized from the sale of VA owned properties, for the purpose of nursing home construction, alteration or acquisition.

Authorizes hiring of pharmacists and occupational therapists under Title 38, U.S.C., as opposed to under Title 5, U.S.C.

Authorizes incentive bonuses for registered nurses—and other critical health care professions—as recruitment tools. May provide up to $4,000 per year for a four year employment agreement.

Provides authority to pay premium pay to registered nurses working Saturdays.

Expands eligibility for the Health Professional Scholarship Program.

Authorizes tuition reimbursement for registered nurses.

Requires the Chief of Nursing Service at each VA medical facility be included in each policy making committee at that facility.

Requires the VA to report on their efforts to promote increased efforts by affiliated institutions in the training of health care professionals for treatment of age related disability.

Requires there to be at least two responsible bidders for contracting out (A-76) purposes.

Requires a national plan to purchase medical/pharmaceutical items under multiyear contracts.

Directs the Department of the Treasury to return funds sequestered under Gramm-Rudman-Hollings from the Canteen Services and Therapeutic and Rehabilitation Revolving Funds.

Authorizes the Canteen Service to operate child care centers at VA medical centers as a recruitment and retention tool for health care employees.

Prohibits Canteen Service employees from being counted against personnel ceilings and excess Canteen revolving funds are prohibited from being turned over to the Department of the Treasury at year's end.

Expands the Advisory Committee on Native American Veterans to include native Hawaiians and extends the life of the Committee one year to May 1989.

Prohibits declaring as excess, properties at West Los Angeles and Sepulveda, California VA Medical Centers.

Exempts from Gramm-Rudman-Hollings sequestration vocational rehabilitation training (Chapter 31) and Chapter 35 benefits.

Names the VAMC in Shreveport, Louisiana the Overton Brooks VA Medical Center.

Increases the two specially adapted housing assistance program allowances from $35,500 to $38,000 and from $6,000 to $6,500, respectively, effective April 1, 1988.

Increases the automobile assistance allowance from $5,000 to $5,500 effective April 1, 1988.

Increases the service-connected burial allowance from $1,100 to $1,500 effective April 1, 1988.

Expands the VA's authority to recognize certain veterans as POWs, when they were interned by other than enemy governments during World War 11.

Provides a presumption of service-connection for former POWs for the conditions of peripheral neuropathy, irritable bowel syndrome and peptic ulcer disease.

Establishes a presumption of service-connection for systemic lupus erythematosus.

Restores to a very limited number of beneficiaries, Social Security equivalent benefits paid by the VA to survivors of veterans who died from service connected causes and who were inadvertently omitted from restoration of such benefits in 1982.

Permits the VA to increase monthly installments paid to beneficiaries receiving National Service Life Insurance, Veterans Special Life Insurance or Veterans Reopened Insurance under a life annuity settlement option, so long as such adjustments are administratively and actuarially sound.

Prohibits state taxation on premiums paid for Servicemens' Group Life Insurance after June 30, 1988.

Authorizes that four months after enactment, the VA, rather than private insurance companies, will provide Mortgage Protection Life Insurance to service connected disabled veterans in receipt of specially adapted housing assistance.

Permits the VA to place flat grave markers in cemeteries located on the grounds of, or adjacent to, a VA health care facility, and in the National Cemeteries located in Riverside, California; Bourne, Massachusetts; Augusta, Maine; Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania and the proposed new National Cemetery for Northern California.

Authorizes VA contributions for construction on land adjacent to National Cemeteries in order to facilitate safe egress and ingress from the cemetery.

Removes the requirement that no state may receive more than 20% of the total funds appropriated for the State Cemetery Grant Program in any one year.

Authorizes the VA to provide graveliners for use in National Cemeteries and authorizes the Secretary of the Army to provide graveliners at Arlington National Cemetery.

States that six months after the date of enactment, the VA and the state of Arizona will enter into an agreement whereby title to the Arizona National Cemetery will be conveyed to the VA.

The provisions of Public Law 100-322 are effective on the date of enactment (May 20, 1988) except where otherwise noted.

THE VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND COUNSELING AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1988
(PUBLIC LAW 100-323, ENACTED MAY 20, 1988)

This measure provided improvement in the employment opportunities of veterans as follows:

> Establishes a National Veterans' Employment and Training Services Institute to train personnel who provide employment related services to veterans.
>
> Extends through September 30, 1989, the deadline by which a veteran must apply for participation in VJTA and extends through March 31, 1990, the deadline by which a participant must be involved in an approved training program; and authorizes $120 million in additional funding for the program through Fiscal Year 1989 (to remain available through FY 1991).
>
> Ensures adequate funding to support Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERs) and Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialists (DVOPs) nationwide.
>
> Requires the Secretary of Labor to consult and better coordinate their activities with the VA, with special emphasis on the Readjustment Counseling and Chapter 31 Programs.
>
> Requires that LVERs hired on or after July 1, 1988 must be hired under the following preference: (1) qualified service-connected disabled veterans, (2) qualified veterans. and (3) qualified eligible persons.
>
> Requires the development and application of performance standards for DVOPs and LVERs which are consistent with their statutory duties and functions.
>
> Authorizes the waiver of residency requirements to appoint any qualified veteran as a Director for Veterans' Employment and Training or Assistant Director for Veterans' Employment and Training should no qualified veteran who meets the residency requirement be available.
>
> Requires the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training to conduct, every two years, a special unemployment study, through the Bureau of Labor Statistics, of special disabled veterans and veterans who served in the

Vietnam Theater. The first study is to be completed six months after enactment.

Requires DVETS and ADVETS to monitor the implementation of Federal laws requiring preference to veterans within the Federal Government and to report evidence of noncompliance to the Office of Personnel Management.

DAV LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES/PENDING LEGISLATION IN THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 100TH CONGRESS

VA FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR 1989

As expected, a significant amount of time was spent by the DAV in addressing the Administration's VA budget request for Fiscal Year 1989 (10/1/88 through 9/30/89).

The request provided for overall funding authority of $27.927 billion—an increase of $865 million over Fiscal Year 1988. While this may appear to be a sizable increase, more than two-thirds of the additional funds—$658 million—were slated for the VA's Loan Guaranty Revolving Fund (monies used to cover anticipated losses through foreclosures in VA guaranteed loans).

As a result, VA health care services and veterans' claims processing would still be underfunded and incur significant losses in staffing levels—minus 492 in the Department of Veterans Benefits and minus 1,782 in the Department of Medicine and Surgery.

In other areas, the Administration proposed:

To automatically index (now legislated) adjustments in service-connected disability and death compensation benefits.

To repeal the VA Educational Loan Fund.

To amend current law to permit lender/borrower negotiated interest rates in VA guaranteed loans.

To restrict eligibility for the VA's burial plot allowance to only those cases where the veteran was in receipt of VA compensation or pension benefits at time of death (now extended to the survivors of all veterans who had honorable service during a period of war).

In a series of legislative presentations to the Congress, the DAV strongly objected to most of the Administration's requests and offered, as an alternative, the "Independent Budget by Veterans" as developed by our organization, along with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the American Veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam (AMVETS), and the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA).

VA funding for Fiscal Year 1989 has not yet cleared the Congress, however, the House of Representatives, at the time this report was finalized, was in the process of approving a funding measure authorizing some $250 million more than the Administration request.

VA/CABINET LEVEL STATUS

As indicated at the outset of this report, the DAV targeted securing Cabinet level status for the Veterans Administration as one of its priority legislative objectives in 1988.

In fact, the action on this issue began in the fall of 1987, shortly after the DAV set it sights on the goal.

It was Commander Gene A. Murphy himself who, in October of last year, testified before the House Government Operations Committee in support of H.R. 3471, a VA Cabinet bill sponsored by the leadership of both the Government Operations and Veterans Affairs Committees.

Shortly thereafter, on November 18th, the full House of Representatives gave overwhelming approval to the measure, referring it to the Senate by a vote of 399 to 17.

Three separate hearings were held by the Committee of jurisdiction in the Senate—Governmental Affairs—during which the Senate bill (S. 533, sponsored by Senator Strom Thurmond) secured the strong support of the DAV and all other interested parties.

One "side issue" which did rear its head during the Senate hearings was an attempt by the proponents of "judicial review" for the VA to attach such a provision to the Cabinet level bill. This maneuver, if successful, would have endangered timely consideration and, indeed, passage of the Cabinet bill, and it was rejected by the Committee.

At the time this report was finalized, S. 533 had been ordered favorably reported out of the Governmental Affairs Committee for full Senate consideration. A total of

74 Senators have cosponsored the bill with Senator Thurmond and Senate passage is likely to have occurred by the time you read this report.

Though some differences do exist in the House passed and Senate versions, they are not of a major nature and we expect no serious difficulty in obtaining agreement of a finalized bill.

President Reagan, as you are all aware, has indicated his support for this most important legislation. We expect Cabinet level status for the VA to become a reality before the end of the present session of Congress.

JUDICIAL REVIEW

As you are most certainly aware, judicial review and its application to the VA has been the subject of scrutiny—and controversy—in the Congress for a number of years. In fact, since 1979, the Senate has passed a judicial review bill on four separate occasions. Each time the House of Representatives has failed to approve the measure . . . primarily due to opposition voiced by all the major veterans' organizations, including the DAV.

The thrust of these prior bills has been directed at:

1. Authorizing judicial review of individual VA benefit determinations in the Federal District Court System, and
2. Removing the $10 fee limitation that presently applies to private attorney representation in VA proceedings.

The DAV, based upon resolutions approved by the delegates to our Annual National Conventions, has long opposed judicial review as set forth in this prior legislation...and our opposition continues to this day.

In our view, notwithstanding the frustration of some categories of VA claimants (Agent Orange and atomic veterans, primarily) and the dissatisfaction of some individual VA claimants with the VA appellate process, the past judicial review proposals have represented and still represent an exaggerated solution to the problem—one that would impose tremendous cost on the current system without providing anything approaching comparable benefits.

Poised against the possibility of securing a handful of reversed or remanded VA denials of claims, we see the unwanted legalization of current non-adversarial, informal VA administrative proceedings; the siphoning off of millions of dollars of compensation and pension entitlements from veterans to private attorneys; and the overburdening of federal courts with "factual" determinations that they are no better equipped than the VA to handle.

Notwithstanding the above, the DAV has recognized that some form of judicial oversight concerning VA programs would be beneficial, both from the standpoint of ensuring that benefits and services are administered within the intent of Congress and the enabling statutes, and from the standpoint of promoting a continued public trust in the overall fairness of the VA claims process.

Therefore, the DAV, based upon resolutions approved by the National Executive Committee (NEC) since our most recent National Convention, is supporting an alternative approach to this issue, one that does not violate, or change, our past opposition to prior judicial review legislation.

This approach is embodied in S. 2292, a bill that was recently introduced in the Senate by Senator Frank Murkowski, Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

This measure, by authorizing federal appellate court review and reasonable fees for private attorney involvement in matters relating to challenges to the validity of VA rules and regulations, would permit outside oversight of agency policy that is to say, judicial redress in a broad, meaningful fashion affecting large numbers of claimants—while, at the same time, protecting the VA's massive adjudicative system from the disruption caused by the wholesale intrusion of courts and lawyers.

In addition, the proposal would provide a significant degree of independence to the VA's Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA), conferring upon that entity the ability to render decisions free from the appearance of undue agency influence.

Specifically, S. 2292 would affect BVA as follows:

1. Require Presidential appointment and Senate confirmation of the BVA chairman and vice chairman;
2. Allow BVA itself to challenge VA rules and regulations; and
3. Allow BVA to challenge precedent opinions of the VA's General Counsel.

The DAV regards S. 2292 as an important, viable alternative to past judicial review proposals that have thus far failed to achieve a Congressional consensus. Indeed, the bill represents an opportunity to finally address the very complex issue of judicial review to the satisfaction of all interested parties and in the best interest of our federal system of veterans' benefits and services.

On April 28, 1988, the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee held hearings on S. 2292 and S. 11, a bill that takes the "old" approach of exposing all VA decision-making to court review. Supporting the provisions of S. 2292, along with the DAV, was the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Judicial Conference of the United States, Yale Law School Professor Jerry Mashaw (an expert on mass adjudicative systems) and other individuals and organizations. The sole veterans' organization supporting S. 11 (without reservation) was the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA).

The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee is expected to report a judicial review bill to the floor of the Senate in the near future. On the House side, Veterans Affairs Committee G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery has indicated his willingness to hold hearings on this subject, including "mark up" consideration. The DAV is most desirous of securing a consensus on this most important issue in order to achieve Congressional approval of a judicial review measure that will favorably affect veterans and their system of benefits and services.

DISABILITY, COMPENSATION/DIC INCREASE

Both the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees have held hearings on legislation proposing an upward adjustment in the rates of VA service connected disability and death compensation benefits (H.R. 4216 and S. 2011), with the Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance of the House Veterans Affairs Committee favorably reporting its bill to the full Committee . . . a 4.2% across-the-board increase in rates effective 12/1/88.

Based upon past and projected Consumer Price Index (CPI) movement and the actions taken thus far by the two Committees, we anticipate that legislation authorizing an adjustment of approximately 4%, effective 12/1/88, will be approved by the Congress in the fall of this year.

OTHER VETERANS' LEGISLATION AND ISSUES

Thus far this year, the DAV has also testified before Committees of the Congress and/or has been involved in the following issues and subjects:

VA health care and medical/prosthetic research.
The timeliness and quality of VA adjudicative decisions.
The VA's Home Loan Guaranty Program.
VA employment issues.
A national memorial to honor the service performed by women members of our Armed Forces during the Vietnam War.
The creation of a World War II memorial and museum.
Agent Orange (DAV supports a presumption of service-connection for non-Hodgkins Lymphoma (NHL) developing in veterans exposed to Agent Orange).
The VA's Vocational Rehabilitation Program.
Concurrent receipt of VA disability compensation benefits and military longevity retirement pay.

* * *

This completes the Annual Report of the Department of Legislation.

Many persons associated with DAV legislative actions deserve recognition for their efforts.

Our friends in Congress, especially those in the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees, have again proven themselves to be valuable advocates on behalf of VA benefits and services.

National Adjutant/Executive Director of Washington Headquarters, Charles "Butch" Joeckel, has given unqualified leadership and support to our Capitol Hill efforts.

The entire staffs of our Washington, D.C. and Cincinnati, Ohio, offices, as well as DAV National Service Officers throughout the country have all made valuable contributions. A very special word of thanks must be given to Deputy National Legislative Director Stephen Edmiston, Assistant National Legislative Director for Medical Affairs Dave Gorman and Associate National Legislative Director Rick Schultz—the hard work, initiative and ability of these three men are of immeasurable value.

It is, of course, a pleasure for me to acknowledge the contribution of the wonderful lady who has led our Auxiliary with such dignity and poise during the past year—Katherine Pearson. Commander Pearson has epitomized the quiet strength, determination and compassion which characterizes the ladies of our great Auxiliary.

Of course, the highest praise must be given to you, the individual DAV/Auxiliary member and to all our Chapter and Department officials who have unhesitatingly and unselfishly responded to our grass roots appeals. Your support and involvement in our legislative activities are the bottom-line factors which have enabled and will continue to enable the DAV to achieve its legislative successes.

A special note of thanks and appreciation is, of course, extended to our great National Commander Gene A. Murphy. Commander Murphy has not only gained the respect and admiration of many members of Congress for himself, personally, but also for our organization. Without a doubt, the leadership and energy that Commander Murphy has brought to the position of National Commander has materially strengthened the DAV's claim to be the "official spokesman" for America's service connected disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors.

Finally, and with a great deal of "mixed emotions," I note the contributions of National Adjutant Dale Adams on DAV legislative efforts during the past year. There are simply not enough superlatives in the English language to adequately express the impact he has had on DAV's ability to stand tall on Capitol Hill.

Though future Annual Legislative Reports will not refer to Dale as the "sitting" National Adjutant—the imprint of his outstanding leadership and counsel will certainly be incorporated in them. Of this there can be no doubt.

The National Department of Legislation most respectfully and affectionately salutes "Old Gimlet Eye." He will never be gone and he will never be forgotten.

ANNUAL REPORT OF RONALD W. DRACH, NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT DIRECTOR

It is indeed an honor and privilege to submit to the delegates at our 67th National Convention my annual report as your National Employment Director and to provide you with information on the various activities of that office during the past year.

I would first like to convey my deepest appreciation to National Commander Gene A. Murphy and his line officers for their support and cooperation.

I would also like to single out Past National Adjutant Denvel D. Adams for his support and encouragement given to me personally and professionally since I became National Employment Director in 1975. Dale's sage advice, wisdom, foresight and leadership will be missed.

I want to convey my deep appreciation for the direction and leadership provided by current National Adjutant Charles E. (Butch) Joeckel. I know that the leadership of the DAV is in good hands with Mr. Joeckel as National Adjutant. I am confident that he will take the organization to new heights.

The duties and responsibilities of the office of National Employment Director could never be carried out if it were not for the direct support and help received on a daily basis from Associate National Employment Director Michael G. Bargmann. Many of you have worked with Mike over the years in his former capacities as Associate National Service Director and Supervisor of our Regional Office in Washington, D.C. You are aware of his expertise as a staff person and as an asset to our organization.

Our National Service Officers are unequalled in their skill and ability to provide representation to our nation's disabled veterans and their dependents. These National Service Officers and their staffs work long and hard to assure that our nation's disabled veterans and their dependents receive all the benefits which they are entitled to. This includes certain employment rights and benefits such as veterans' preference and protection under affirmative action laws and regulations. Scores of them also work on national issues dealing with employment, as well as state and local issues, both administratively and legislatively. Our thanks goes to them for making the DAV Employment Program meaningful.

The National Employment Department also works very closely with National Legislative Director Rick Heilman, National Service Director Art Wilson, National Director of Communications Jerry Atchison and National Director of Voluntary Services Bruce Nitsche and their respective staffs. Each of these individuals is a tremendous asset to our organization. Although we sometimes have overlapping responsibilities, we work as a team and get the job done.

I would be remiss if I did not thank National Auxiliary Commander Katherine Pearson and her National Adjutant Maria Tedrow. Both have provided strong leadership to the Auxiliary and have always responded to our request for help when needed. I particularly want to thank them and many of their Departments and Units for their ongoing support of the National Journalism Contest, cosponsored by the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, AFL-CIO, the DAV and the Auxiliary.

The National Employment Director and Associate National Employment Director are responsible for working with and monitoring the activities of several agencies. This includes pending legislation and Congressional oversight. The National Employment Director is a registered lobbyist and appears before Congress nine or ten times year. We also work closely with Congressional staff in developing employment legislation and employment oversight. We monitor the activities of the Department of Labor, Office of Personnel Management, U.S. Postal Service, the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Small Business Administration, Tennessee Valley Authority, and some activities of the Veterans Administration.

In dealing with some of these agencies, we often overlap into areas affecting disabled people in general. This is not restricted to employment, but encompasses transportation, housing, homeless, entrepreneurship, voting rights, civil rights, disability and longevity retirement, affirmative action, equal employment opportunity and basic applications for employment. We often provide technical information and assistance directly to veterans designed to enhance their prospects in obtaining meaningful employment.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

There are three major components within the Department of Labor we are actively involved with. The most active is the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) headed by Assistant Secretary Donald Shasteen. His office is responsible for a myriad of programs to include veterans' reemployment rights (VRR), Veterans' Job Training Act (VJTA), Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) and several programs funded under the aforementioned. Additionally, they are now responsible for monitoring the activities of federal contractors through Congressionally mandated reports provided by these federal contractors.

The DAV can take pride in knowing that federal contractor activities are being monitored as a result of our efforts. The law requiring this annual report was pursued by the National Employment Director and we saw the enactment of that legislation in 1982. Regrettably, and in spite of our ongoing efforts, it took an additional five years for the Department of Labor to issue regulations implementing the reporting requirement. The first report by federal contractors was due March 31, 1988. Those reports are slowly coming in. We will monitor this activity and actions of the Department of Labor should the reports give any indication that there may be violations of law. We have almost daily contact and meet with Mr. Shasteen or members of his staff at least monthly. Through our efforts, Mr. Shasteen has placed a major emphasis on disabled veteran employment programs.

We serve on the Secretary of Labor's Committee on Veterans' Employment (SCOVE) chaired by the Secretary of Labor. Mr. Shasteen is the vice-chairman. That Committee meets quarterly and is comprised of several federal agencies and major veterans' organizations. One major program sponsored by the Committee in which the DAV had significant involvement was a "Veterans' Forum 2000." This was a two-and-a-half day forum in which veterans' organizations, government agencies and other individuals met in Washington to discuss the employment and training needs of veterans and disabled veterans between now and the year 2000. Your National Employment Director facilitated one of the workshops dealing with training for employment. We were also involved in planning and taking part in the Department of Labor's "Annual Salute to Veterans" on Veterans Day.

The Disabled American Veterans was the guiding force in the Department of Labor establishing the National Veterans Training Institute (NVTI) in Denver, Colorado. We have been involved with that Institute since its inception and monitor its activities very closely. We have had favorable reports from Disabled Veterans Outreach Personnel (DVOPs) and Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVERs) who have attended the training session. Associate National Employment Director Mike Bargmann spent a week there in February. The Institute is designed to provide training to DVOPs and LVERs and others in the employment field so that they may better carry out their duties as they relate to employment of disabled veterans.

We were involved in the selection process for a new director and were asked by the University of Colorado to serve on the search committee. A special note of thanks goes out to National Service Officer Jerry Steelman, supervisor of our Denver office, who represented me at numerous meetings with the University of Colorado and NVTI staff to help in the selection process. I was involved in interviewing the final three candidates in late June. A new director was appointed earlier this month.

NVTI has now been mandated by law (Public Law 100-323) and is now called the National Veterans Employment Services Institute and will be funded by the Department of Labor as a line item in the budgeting process. The DAV played a leadership role in having this program statutorily authorized.

The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) has the major enforcement responsibility for Section 2012, Title 38, U.S. Code. This requires certain federal contractors to take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified disabled and Victnam Era veterans. OFCCP's efforts in this area continue to be virtually negligible and have been since 1975. We are hoping that the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees will conduct oversight hearings in the near future on OFCCP's policies. We are also anticipating a major legislative hearing on major changes to the affirmative action laws and other sections dealing with affirmative action in the federal sector. We are working closely with staff members of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees to develop new legislation.

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has the overall responsibility for employment and training programs administered by the Department of Labor. On occasion, however, there are overlapping responsibilities in the administration of various programs between ETA and VETS. The Assistant Secretary for VETS now has responsibility for overseeing the administration of all veterans' employment and training programs. The Assistant Secretary has budgeting authority and responsibility for the DVOPs and LVERs and with the new legislation Assistant Secretary Shasteen will have much more responsibility for policy as it relates to LVERs and DVOPs.

DAV has also become involved in employment for homeless veterans as a direct result of the Department of Labor initiating a jobs for homeless veterans project. Many of our NSOs are directly involved at their level.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT (OPM)

The Office of Personnel Management has responsibility for enforcing the veterans' preference statutes contained in Title 5, U.S. Code. They also have the responsibility for the affirmative action requirements mandated by Section 2014, Title 38, U.S. Code. Regrettably, OPM has delegated the hiring authority to federal agencies. Each hiring site for each federal agency has the flexibility and ability to circumvent, intentionally or unintentionally, veterans' preference. We have been working closely with Director Constance Horner's office and meet with her or members of her staff at least quarterly. As a result of our efforts, she has issued numerous directives and memoranda to federal agencies reminding them of their obligations. This, however, has not been enough. We have requested, and the House Veterans Affairs Committee has consented, to have oversight hearings in August on OPM's activities. I will be appearing at those hearings and offering testimony on the deficiencies as we see them.

As I indicated earlier, Section 2014 is being reviewed and, hopefully, legislation will be introduced or considered by the oversight hearing scheduled for August. It is going to take a major rewrite of the legislation and a renewed commitment and emphasis on the part of OPM to assure that affirmative action is carried out in a meaningful way for disabled veterans.

Federal departments and agencies are required under Section 2014 to file a report with the Office of Personnel Management regarding their results on affirmative action. Regrettably, there are no penalties or other types of sanctions available to assure that an agency has an effective and acceptable program and not just a plan. We will continue to monitor agencies' activities in this area.

We receive, almost daily, inquiries from disabled veterans who are seeking federal employment. Many have general inquiries on how they can get a job, how veterans' preference actually works, how the VRA works and how the 30% non-competitive appointment authority works. They also want to know what their rights and remedies may be.

Some questions are more basic and just ask what agencies are hiring and how to become a "certified eligible." We have responded to these by providing technical information and support and referral to the National Service Officer. We also have responded to additional inquiries regarding dual compensation, retirement and health issues, federal employees' compensation for work related injuries, transfers and promotions.

In late 1987 DAV was involved with OPM and several other federal agencies in developing a disabled veterans' workshop for a national symposium designed to enhance employment opportunities for disabled people. We designed and facilitated the workshop, as well as recruited other resource people to serve on the workshop.

We worked with OPM to assure veterans' representation on a national recruiting symposium hosted by OPM in June of 1988. This was not unlike the Department of Labor's "Veterans Forum 2000," in that OPM was making a review of their employment needs and recruitment sources between now and the year 2000.

We work closely with OPM on their annual awards program to recognize outstanding federal handicapped employees. This is an ongoing program which we support, since many of these honorees are d.isabled veterans. The t several years have produced' an average of two or three out of ten winners who have been disabled veterans.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

The office of the National Employment Director is involved in two major VA activities—monitoring the agency's activities as they relate to employment of disabled veterans and the Vocational Rehabilitation Program. I also serve as chairman of the Administrator's Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation. This Committee was mandated by law in 1980 and designed to advise the Administrator on issues affecting the VA's rehabilitation programs. During the remainder of this year, as well as next year, the Committee will focus on the Vocational Rehabilitation Program in the VA. That has already started in part by DAV requesting hearings on the Vocational Rehabilitation Program by the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees. Both Committees have conducted their hearings which may result in some Congressional actions.

As part of our monitoring other agency's affirmative action programs, we will be taking a close look at the Veterans Administration.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

In the late 70's and early 80's the Postal Service accounted for a large portion of our workload. That included responding to several complaints a day from disabled veterans, National Service Officers and other officials concerning the Postal Service's discriminatory policies.

Through our efforts, and the support of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, the Postal Service is now much more responsive to the concerns and needs of disabled veterans. Although we continue to receive complaints, they are minimal by comparison to eight years ago. However, some of these complaints tend to reflect continuing blatant discrimination. We attempt to resolve these complaints informally through their national office. Many times we are successful. Other times we must advise the veteran to file an EEO complaint and to seek assistance and representation through our National Service Officers. We often advise these veterans of their other protections under the Civil Rights Act and through the Grievance Arbitration Procedure. The ability for the DAV to provide representation is somewhat restricted to disability discrimination issues since most other employment and personnel matters must, by virtue of the Union/Postal Service negotiated contract, be represented by the unions.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)

We do not receive an overabundance of inquiries regarding SBA but when we do we respond appropriately. Associate National Employment Director Bargmann serves on the Veterans Advisory Committee for SBA which over the last couple of years has been a very active Committee.

Currently, certain minority owned firms have a "set aside" of federal contracts which only they are entitled to compete for. Additionally, federal agencies may contract directly with a minority owned business without going through the competitive process. Disabled veterans are not covered under this and we will be seeking a legislative or administrative change.

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

President Reagan recently signed an Executive Order changing the name of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped (PCEH) to the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. Approximately two years ago we became very involved in preserving the President's Committee from virtual elimination. The President's Committee at that time was under attack and attempts were being made to abolish it. Largely through the efforts of the DAV, the President's Committee was retained and lost very little of its budget. We believe we have a vested interest in the Committee since leaders of the DAV were instrumental in establishing the original Committee in 1947. DAV has always had a strong role in President's Committee activities. We have worked very closely with chairman Harold Russell and executive director Jay Rochlin, as well as several members of their staff. On an ongoing basis, we serve on the Executive Committee, the Committee on Disabled Veterans, and the Awards Committee. The past year I have chaired a task force to review the awards and contest programs to make recommendations to the Executive Committee on necessary changes. We also work very closely with them on their National Journalism Contest. We will be communicating with Departments in the near future requesting their support and cooperation in helping to administer this program. All of these functions are extremely important. They keep DAV very visible in the minds of the President's Committee staff, employers associated with the President's Committee, other federal agencies and organizations representing disabled people.

Through the leadership of the DAV, the Committee on Disabled Veterans (CODV) has been one of the most active Committees of the President's Committee. Over the past several years, CODV has undertaken a series of public forums throughout the country. These public forums have resulted in one formal report and one draft report. The formal report has been widely disseminated and used as a briefing paper for staff members of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees. The draft report, when finalized, will be used likewise. We have been actively involved in these field hearings, both from my office and from Supervisory NSOs who have been instrumental in helping to set up the community forums.

JOB ACCOMMODATION NETWORK (JAN)

The President's Committee was instrumental in establishing the Job Accommodation Network through the University of West Virginia. JAN was established to provide technical information and assistance to employers and others who need help identifying assistive devices or other means by which they may facilitate the employment of disabled people. JAN is funded by the federal government through the end of Fiscal Year 1988. Because JAN was designed to operate independent of the federal government, a nonprofit association has been established. This is the Job Accommodation Network of America (JANA). The purpose of JANA is to seek out private support and funding to maintain JAN. Through our efforts, Past National Commander Chad Colley has become chairman of JANA and I serve on their Board of Directors. This type of service can provide meaningful assistance to our nation's employers so that increased employment opportunities may be made available to disabled veterans.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

While my office does not have direct responsibility for the Social Security programs, I did serve on the Social Security Disability Advisory Council for approximately a year, concluding in December, 1987. This Council was mandated by Congress and was charged with making recommendations to Congress on rehabilitation, work incentives and disincentives and other areas as they affect the Disability Insurance Programs. The Council has completed its report and submitted it to Congress. Since that time, I have met with Congressional staff representatives who requested our views on the report, as well as other programs; I served on a workshop at the Annual Meeting of the President's Committee; and I have been asked to sit on a task force to review the recommendations and how they may best be implemented.

ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS COMPLIANCE BOARD (ATBCB)

We have continued our efforts to work closely with and monitor the activities of the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (ATBCB). This Board was established by Congress to set standards and assure that federal buildings owned or leased by the federal government are accessible to and usable by handicapped individuals. The Board has experienced many problems over the years.

When Deputy VA Administrator Tom Harvey assumed the chair at ATBCB he saw many management problems. Accordingly, he asked the VA's Office of Program Plans and Evaluation do a management review study which has resulted in numerous management changes within the Board's structure. The Board, however, needs further review to determine what, if anything, is necessary to improve accessibility in the public and private sector for disabled veterans and other disabled people.

August 12, 1968, marks the 20th anniversary of the original Architectural Barriers Act. My office is in the process of developing and hosting a symposium on the Architectural Barriers Act to look at where we were, where we are, and where we need to go. The Board and other federal agencies will be involved in this project.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION (EEOC)

EEOC has the final authority on employment discrimination cases filed against federal departments and agencies. We work closely with staff at EEOC regarding veterans' complaints. Under current legislation, disabled veterans as a class do not have a right to file a complaint. If a disabled veteran believes discrimination has occurred by a federal department or agency, a complaint may be filed under the legislation protecting handicapped individuals. We will be seeking a change to that legislation to allow disabled veterans their own private right of action to file a complaint.

EEOC and the Department of Education co-chair the Interagency Committee on Handicapped Employees (ICHE). ICHE has been in existence since 1973. They are supposed to meet at least semi-annually, but information available indicates that they meet approximately every 18 months. They have met in a public setting only twice in 15 years. Both of those meetings resulted from DAV efforts. The DAV ultimately hosted those public meetings.

It has recently come to our attention that ICHE has decided that disabled veterans do not come under their jurisdiction and that issues affecting disabled veterans should be reviewed by other agencies. We disagree with that position and will be pursuing actions to hopefully have that policy changed so that disabled veterans will be looked at as a subgroup of the overall disabled population.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY (TVA)

Although TVA is a rather small agency, it does employ quite a few veterans and disabled veterans. TVA is somewhat like the Postal Service in that they are a quasi-independent agency and exempt from many civil service rules and regulations.

They are, however, required to comply with veterans' preference and we have had problems with TVA over the years. In the last year or so, TvA has established an ongoing outreach effort to work with our organization in attempting to assure compliance with existing laws and regulations. Regrettably, because of budget cuts, TVA is going to undergo a major reduction-in-force sometime this summer. This has the potential of impacting adversely on many disabled veterans. TVA has contacted us and we have worked closely with OPM and the Department of Labor to assure that adequate resources are provided for an orderly transition for those disabled veterans who may be affected by a reduction-in-force.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

We monitor the aforementioned agencies' activities and programs, the Congressional Record, Federal Register and other publications and, when necessary, act accordingly. We respond to proposed rule-making when it has potential impact on veterans' programs.

When significant legislative, regulatory or policy changes are announced by these agencies we notify the field either in technical memoranda to National Service Officers or more general information through the Employment Bulletin. The Employment Bulletin also carries matters of general information that is designed to provide assistance to NSOs, Chapters and Departments who work on legislation at the local level.

We are responsible for all Congressional affairs and activities as they relate to employment. This involves general oversight and legislative hearings averaging nine or ten a year, discussions with Committee staffs on various issues and ideas for oversight and legislative hearings. Numerous hearings over the years have been conducted as a result of our request. Congress has undertaken two major rewrites of Chapter 41, Title 38, U.S. Code, in the last six years mainly as a result of our efforts. Many of the oversight hearings of the last six years have been because of our effort.

The most recent rewrite of Chapter 41 resulted in legislation signed by the President on May 21, 1988. This legislation, the "Veterans' Employment, Training and Counseling Amendments of 1988," Public Law 100-323, has incorporated in it, in whole or part, several of our resolutions from last year's National Convention. Proposed legislation to amend Chapter 42, Title 38, U.S. Code, will also incorporate many of our resolutions.

NON-GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

Over the years we have been involved with numerous non-government entities that are interested in employment and training programs. These include: Projects with Industry; Interstate Conference of Employment Security Agencies (ICESA); International Association of Personnel in Employment Security (IAPES); National Organization on Disability (NOD); National Rehabilitation Association (NRA); National Governor's Association (NGA); and the American Society of Personnel Administration (ASPA). We work particularly closely with ICESA and IAPES at the national level to assure disabled veterans are considered in their administrative and legislative proposals. We are serving on a task force of NGA to look at the employment security system to assure that disabled and other veterans receive their priority services in any changes or amendments to the system. We have been working very closely with the Director of Governmental Affairs for ASPA and have done a major workshop for that group at their National Conference.

That concludes my annual report and my office stands ready to assist you in any way possible and I encourage you to contact us if we may be of any help.

ANNUAL REPORT OF GREGORY M. JACKSON, NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

National Commander Murphy, Distinguished Guests and Delegates to this National Convention:

I am honored to present the Annual Report of the National Membership Department to the delegates of the 67th National Convention of the DAV.

Membership is truly the Organization's lifeblood. It touches all we do and how we do it. Our Organization's effectiveness is driven by our membership successes Our ability to affect change and secure the rights and benefits America's disabled veterans have earned is determined by a committed body of dedicated members.

We know that the DAV's voice is really the voice of its individual members. We know, too, that the power and credibility of that voice is determined by those members. Without membership growth our voice is muted. Without membership commitment—through such activities as our life membership program—our voice loses credibility.

This year, I am proud to report the DAV's voice—in our communities and across the nation—is as strong as it's ever been. But before I detail our membership successes, I would like to take a moment to thank those who have made it all possible.

National Commander Gene A. Murphy, through his example, has helped us find the energy to recruit that one more member, that single new DAVer. Recruiting those new members, just one at a time, has resulted in success for the Organization. And the leadership behind that success has come from Commander Murphy.

Our membership efforts this year have been marked by a new and rewarding partnership. It is the partnership the DAV has forged with its Auxiliary, as we move forward to ensure that all disabled veterans and their families reap the benefits of DAV and Auxiliary membership. That partnership was forged because of the commitment of Auxiliary National Commander Katherine Pearson, Auxiliary National Adjutant Maria Tedrow and the dedicated Auxiliary staff.

The national staffs in both Washington and Cincinnati have also worked long and hard to make our membership year a success. They deserve our gratitude and continued support.

If the DAV's membership recruitment efforts are to succeed, they must carry the special brand of excellence that has always marked our Organization. That commitment to making the DAV the best veterans Organization it can be is the hallmark of Dale Adams' 43 years of service to this Organization. And it is a hallmark, I am proud to acknowledge, that continues undiminished under the guidance of Butch Joeckel.

To Dale goes our deepest gratitude for making the DAV what it is today. And to Butch goes our sincerest commitment to making the DAV all it can be today and into the future.

RECRUITERS

The 1987-88 membership year saw a resurgence in our membership recruitment activities. While this renewed interest can in some way be attributed to the establishment of a new incentive program, we know that our recruiters will support our membership without any special awards program. They are totally committed to our

Organization and will do everything possible to ensure our future as a Service Organization.

While we are deeply appreciative of all our recruiters, including our National Service Officers, there is one individual that deserves special recognition for his accomplishments. At the 1987 National Convention in Atlanta, Delbert Nelson was awarded the Top Life Recruiter Award for his unsurpassed accomplishments in the area of life membership. At that time, Delbert made a promise to National Adjutant Dale Adams that he would be the recipient of this award again at the 1988 Convention.

Not only did Delbert accomplish what he set out to do (500 life members) he ended the year as our top recruiter. For this dedication, Delbert will be presented with our Top Life Recruiter Award and our Top Recruiter Award. He recruited 545 DAV members, of which 527 were life!

GOALS

We ended our 1987-88 membership year in record form. As of June 30th, we had 1,078,543 total members which was 10,057 over goal and 13,082 more members than last year. We had 41 Departments and 1,236 Chapters reach their assigned goal before year end. With your continued help, we will reach our new goal of 1,083,850 and set yet another membership record. A special thanks for your support and cooperation.

ONE MILLION LIFE PROGRAM

During the 1987 National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, a new and exciting program was launched. Our goal was one million life members by June 30, 1989. The key to our future is to make our million-member strength permanent. The only way to do that is life membership.

As a result, a program was established to reward Departments for their life membership accomplishments. With $1.2 million set aside for this program, we have witnessed a renewed interest and commitment in the area of life membership.

As of June 30, 1988, we have ten (10) Departments (District of Columbia, Montana, North Dakota, Hawaii, New Mexico, Idaho, Delaware, Nevada, South Dakota and Wyoming) that have recruited 85% of their membership as life members. Congratulations to these Departments.

In addition, and even more impressive, is the fact that we have one Department that has achieved the 90% level. But that is really no surprise when you consider the type of DAV leaders this Department develops. A very special congratulations to National Commander Gene Murphy's own Department of South Dakota for this outstanding accomplishment.

While much has been accomplished, our goal still must be met. That goal will be reached when 95% of our membership make that commitment to life membership.

* * *

As you can see, the membership year, which concluded June 30, 1988, is one marked by success. It is also marked by those who most deserve our gratitude, respect and continued support.

The most important part of our membership efforts has been you, the individual DAV members who've given of your time and energies to help the DAV grow and prosper through your individual, untiring, membership recruitment efforts.

To you, ultimately, falls the burden of success or failure of our membership activities. I am pleased to report that you have again performed as DAV members have always performed—in service to this nation's disabled veterans and their family members through your recruiting efforts.

This concludes the report of the National Membership Department to the 67th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

Annual members	214,507
Specials	46,813
Life members (76%)	817,223
Total	1,078,543
Over goal	10,057

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS—Continued

July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988

Departments at goal	41
Chapters at goal	1,236
New members processed:	
Annual	22,545
Life	26,656
Life conversions	59,513
Total	108,714
85% Life member departments	10
90% Life member departments	1
Recruiters	9,905
New annual	24,028
Part life	21,094
Full life	5,765
Incentive points earned	2,157,880
Incentive points used	236,310
New chapters chartered	34
50 Year departments	1
50 Year chapters	27
Total active chapters	2,687

ANNUAL REPORT OF BRUCE G. NITSCHE, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES

National Commander Murphy, National Officers, Distinguished Guests, Delegates, Members and Guests of the Disabled American Veterans:

It is my privilege to present the first formal Annual Report of DAV Voluntary Services to this 67th National Convention of the DAV.

Volunteer activities are the heart and soul of the DAV and DAV Auxiliary as demonstrated by our individual members. The past year saw significant innovations and statistical enhancement in all our volunteer programs. But far more important than that is the loving commitment these volunteers have shown America's disabled veterans. I am pleased to present to you the 1988 Annual Report of DAV Voluntary Services. The statistics compiled herein represent both the calendar year ending December 31, 1987 and the period of January 1, 1988 thru April 30, 1988. VAVS total number of volunteers, hours, and visits reflect the 12 month period ending March 30, 1988.

This report tallies the figures on money spent, hours volunteered and the number of volunteers involved in DAV volunteer programs. But it can never truly reflect the warm dedication and deeply held commitment of our State VAVS Chairmen, Hospital Representatives, Deputies and all of our volunteers in our many programs. The statistics reflected in this report are the result of DAV members, families and friends fulfilling the purpose of our organization.

In addition to the statistics for the established VAVS and OVAP volunteer programs, this report also provides information for the first year of the DAV Transportation Network. This program involved placing Hospital Service Coordinators (HSCs) in 172 Veterans Administration Medical Centers (VAMCs). By the end of 1987, HSCs were operating 109 Transportation Networks in VA medical facilities across the country. This number has now grown to more than 150 with more programs being added each month. This vital service program has brought the DAV hundreds of new volunteers that are serving the needs of thousands of veterans. DAV HSCs are meeting the challenge put before them and are proving to be a key building block in the DAV's volunteer programs. The DAV HSC program, in association with VAVS Representatives, are keeping the DAV right on the cutting edge of new and innovative volunteer programs that will meet the future needs of disabled veterans and their families.

Since April 1, 1987 the number of DAV VAVS volunteers grew by 1,024, a 19% increase at a time when other veterans' organizations' VAVS programs showed a decrease. Additionally, DAV VAVS volunteers tallied 68,376 more hours than the previous year.

This year reflects many changes in the DAV, one of these was the directive by National Commander Gene Murphy that the National Adjutant establish a Department of Voluntary Services, separate and apart from the Department of Membership. This directive also relocated Voluntary Services from National Headquarters in Cold Spring, Kentucky to National Service and Legislative Headquarters in Washington, D.C., as a part of the programs and services under the auspices of the Executive Director of the Washington Headquarters.

THE GEORGE H. SEAL MEMORIAL AWARD

The annual George H. Seal Memorial Award continues to attract a large number of nominees from VAMCs. This prestigious award is given to two outstanding volunteers—one from the DAV and another from the DAV Auxiliary—who have demonstrated outstanding dedication in their volunteer activities. A blue ribbon selection committee reviews each nomination submitted by VAMCs and selects the winners who best exemplify the volunteer spirit of the late George H. Seal in whose memory this award is given. We received 104 nominations of DAV VAVS volunteers and 61 nominations of the DAVA VAVS volunteers. The winners this year were Jane Johnson, Augusta VAMC; Georgia and Emmanuel N. Vlattas, Hampton VAMC, Virginia.

THE DAV VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

In the fall of 1987 we introduced a new DAV publication called The DAV Volunteer. As National Commander Murphy stated in the first issue, "This is a publication designed to help and promote one of our strongest assets—our work as DAV and DAV Auxiliary volunteers." The DAV Volunteer is published on a quarterly basis and is sent to all DAV and Auxiliary volunteers that are registered on the National Organization's volunteer data base.

THE GOLDEN AGE GAMES

Studies show participation in sports can help to relieve the boredom and frustration of growing older. Competitive involvement enriches an aging veteran's life. First are the physical benefits derived from healthy activity. Second, participation enhances a patient's social life, giving them a chance to meet and interact with other veterans. With this in mind, the DAV has agreed to cosponsor the 1988 Golden Age Games. Established by the VA's Recreation Service, the Golden Age Games are an Olympic style competition. All athletes are veterans age 55 and older. And all are currently receiving treatment at a VA facility. The games began as a test program with three regional competitions in 1983. They were so successful that, by 1985, they were being held on a national level. The importance of this volunteer program is best described by a participant in the first national games who stated, "It made me realize life isn't over yet. I still have something to keep pushing for."

HANDICAPPED SKIING

DAV continues its sponsorship and involvement with this excellent program through our association with the National Handicapped Sports and Recreation Association (NHSRA) and the Veterans Administration's Winter Sports Program. The annual national championships are conducted by NHSRA. The DAV was one of the first organizations to provide major support for the national events eight years ago. The DAV National Commander's Trophy is presented annually to the disabled veteran with the best oVerall performance in the national championship competition. The winner of this year's trophy was mono-ski competitor Kirk Parkhurst, a service-connected disabled veteran from Gresham, Oregon. Another top winner this year was DAV Past National Commander Chad Colley, who won a silver and two bronze medals.

AMPUTEE GOLF

This year will mark the second year of our involvement in the National Amputee Golf Association Open Championships. The DAV's continuing commitment to rehabilitation through sports and recreation prompted the initiation of the National Commander's Trophy which is presented annually to the disabled veteran amputee golfer with the best overall performance in the National Amputee Golf Association Open Championships. The first recipient of the National Commander's trophy was Elmer Clayton, a DAV member and double amputee from Richmond, Virginia. Elmer posted rounds of 78, 79, and 82 finishing second in the multiple amputee division. When presenting the award, DAV National Commander Murphy described Clayton's enthusiasm for the sport as well as his encouragement to other amputees as an example of the can-do attitude so necessary for rehabilitation.

There are many people who should be recognized for their invaluable contributions to the tremendous growth reflected in this first formal annual DAV Voluntary Services Report.

National Commander Gene Murphy and National Auxiliary Commander Katherine Pearson, should certainly be acknowledged for their recognition of the contributions of our volunteers. This recognition not only lets our volunteers know that what they do is appreciated, but it also helps to recruit additional volunteers by publicizing the importance of volunteer service.

The staff at National Headquarters in Cold Spring, Kentucky. The operation of the DAV volunteer program would not be possible without the many support services they offer.

National Adjutant, Charles "Butch" Joeckel, for his leadership and commitment to all of the DAV's service programs.

Director of VA Voluntary Service, Ed Rose, for always being available to help guide us through the paperwork and the regulations of VA Central Office that affect our VAVS programs.

DAV National Director of Membership, Greg Jackson, for his assistance in the realignment of DAV Voluntary Services as a separate department.

A very special thank you is extended to Past National Adjutant Dale Adams, who continuously showed vision throughout his DAV career by starting service programs to meet the existing and future needs of disabled veterans. I feel especially proud of having been named to serve the as DAV National Director of Voluntary Services by Dale Adams. No one holds volunteers in higher regard than Dale. Knowing of his esteem for DAV and Auxiliary volunteers, it means a great deal to me that Dale entrusted me with directing our organization's volunteer programs.

The most important "thank you" goes to the thousands of DAV and DAVA volunteers who consistently give more than is asked of them and then ask what else they can do. I can think of no other group of people I would rather be associated with. Being allowed to serve the DAV as National Director of Voluntary Services during this past year is a privilege that has been truly rewarding.

DAV VOLUNTARY SERVICES REPORT—1988

VA Voluntary Service (VAVS)

[April 1, 1987 thru March 31, 1988]

Number of regularly scheduled volunteers	6,482
Number of hours by regularly scheduled volunteers	1,245,497
Number of visits by regularly scheduled volunteers	243,484
Number of hours by occasional volunteers	56,462
Number of visits by occasional volunteers	14,808
Number of hours by all VAVS volunteers	1,298,959
Number of visits by all VAVS volunteers	244,629
Number of state chairman	21
Number of state chairman also serving as representatives	15
Number of representatives	169
Number of deputy representatives	350
Number of associate representatives	33
Number of deputy associate representatives	04
Number of appointed positions	596
Annual joint reviews received for the year	124
VAVS donations (January 1, 1987 thru December 31, 1987)	$853,984.00
Value of donations other than cash (This reflects the donation by the Gillette Co of razors and blades)	$1,400,000.00
Other hospital and service related donations (This includes Dept. & Chapter costs associated with welfare & relief, as well as HSC & DSO programs)	$4,363,552.00
Total donations	$6,617,536.00

Older Veterans Assistance Programs (OVAP)

[January 1, 1987 thru December 31, 1987]

Number of OVAP volunteers	4,491
Number of chapter OVAP teams	733
Number of requests for service forms	577
Number of OVAP grants issued to date	142
Amount of OVAP grants issued to date	$107,886.56

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

[January 1, 1987 thru April 30, 1988]

These DAV Transportation Statistics reflect the data gathered as DAV Transportation Networks became operational from January 1, 1987 thru April 30, 1988. For example, during the month of March 1987, five (5) programs were active. Therefore, these statistics should be regarded as a gauge to measure the development of our Transportation Network since its inception, rather than a report of a fully functional program.

Monthly DAV Transportation Networks

[cumulative]

1987	
January	3
February	3
March	5
April	27
May	47
June	63
July	74
August	80
September	91
October	101
November	103
December	109
1988	
January	119
February	124
March	133
April	144

Transportation Totals for the Periods of:

	1/1/87–12/31/87	1/1/88–4/30/88	Total
Total number of hospital service coordinators (HSC)	109	144	144
Number veterans transported	18,120	20,951	44,071
Transportation hours	55,110	71,328	126,438
Transportation miles	990,173	1,287,466	2,277,639

National grants to departments (not including vans) $873,738.08

44 vans	$410,380.20	$255,300.20
Total expenditures: (includes vans)	$1,284,118.28	$2,129,359.20
National and department expenditures	$3,413.477.48	

Commander MURPHY. At this time we would like to introduce Al Bland, who is National Commander of American Ex-Prisoners of War, and his wife. [Applause.]

We would like to introduce Warren Hutchings, who is with Adolph Coors, who has a presentation to make.

Mr. WARREN HUTCHINGS. National Commander, national officers, distinguished guests, and delegates:

Butch, let me say, after your presentation, I'm damn proud to be a member of this organization. [Applause.]

First of all, I want to thank the DAV for inviting me here. One of the purposes for coming down was to make a presentation to our national commander, and secondly to support the Texas group for this evening's fun night, which I am looking forward to. [Applause.]

1988 has been a very exciting year for our company. We have been involved in many, many things.

As you know, four and a half years ago we started a Coors scholarship program for the sons and daughters of veterans. We are very proud of this program. And to date, this year, we have put up—each year we put up a half a million dollars, and with the help of our distributors, this year two and a half million dollars was raised for the sons and daughters of veterans. [Applause.]

This year we did five commemorative pieces. Eventually, budget permitting, we will get to all of the senior divisions. We did one on the 82nd Airborne, one on the 101st, the Screaming Eagles; we did one on the First Division, the Big Red One. We also did one on the Fifth Infantry Division. All of these have been presented with the exception of the Fifth, who is presently stationed at Polk, Louisiana.

We also did one on the professional hispanic in the military, which will be presented in Corpus Christi, Texas, in August.

We did an ad program this year, and we felt that our company had to attempt to wake up the rest of the country and provide support in employing our veterans.

As everyone knows here, Coors is a strong supporter of the veteran. We had seven people retire, seven military people, who are veterans, from our company this year, but we still have presently on board 3,012 veterans, and we are very proud of that. [Applause.]

We ran an ad in the Fortune Magazine in May. To date it has won three national awards. And the reason we did this ad was to challenge the rest of the corporate world to provide support and help our veterans. If people would look around and understand some of the problems we have, I think we would have less of them.

Presently our street people are made up of over 40 percent that are veterans. And damn it, we have got to straighten that out. [Applause.]

At this time, I'd like to present to our national commander, Gene Murphy, our Coors Golden Dog Tag Award. And I'd like to read this. And if it's wrong, Bob Lenham, you better start running, but I am going to read it for you.

Murphy, Eugene A., U.S. 56565487. Are we right so far?

Commander MURPHY. Right on.

Mr. HUTCHINGS. U.S.A., blood type B, C, Catholic, Coors Golden Dog Tag Award. I read: A salute to Eugene A. Murphy, National

Commander, Disabled American Veterans, presented July the 25th, 1988, by the Adolph Coors Company.

And Gene, on behalf of the company, I'm proud to present this to you. You have done a tremendous job this year in leading our organization.

I thank all of you very much. [Applause.]

Commander **MURPHY**. Thank you, Warren, very much. At this time we would like to entertain a motion that the list of delegates and alternates selected by the 21 national districts and the Blind Veterans chapter to serve on convention committees be admitted into the record of the proceedings of this convention. Mike 1.

Mr. **JAMES** C. **TILLMAN**. It gives me great pleasure—James C. Tillman, Jr., Blind Chapter, first junior vice—what was I supposed to say? I have gotten lost there.

Commander **MURPHY**. Just move the motion.

Mr. **TILLMAN**. Oh, make a motion to accept it with great dedication for a job well done. Thank you.

Commander **MURPHY**. Thank you. Mike 3.

Mr. **HAROLD**. Harold, Boston, 10, seconds that motion.

Commander **MURPHY**. Thank you. On the motion, is there any discussion? All in favor say Aye. All against say Nay. So moved.

Ladies and gentlemen, please rise and I will ask Chaplain Bergstrom to lead us in prayer.

Chaplain **BERGSTROM**. As we come to the end of our business session, we ask the Almighty to allow us to pause from our labors, to gain this moment of relaxation and recreation, that we may join together this afternoon with renewed vigor to do those things that we must do for the disabled veteran, his widow and his orphan. Amen.

Commander **MURPHY**. The convention stands in recess until one o'clock this afternoon. Thank you.

[Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 11:43 a.m. on July 25, 1988.]

MONDAY AFTERNOON BUSINESS SESSION

July 25, 1988

The Monday Afternoon Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans 67th National Convention convened in the Chantilly Ballroom of the Loews Anatole Hotel, Dallas, Texas, on July 25, 1988, and was called to order at 1:00 o'clock p.m. by National Commander Gene A. Murphy.

Commander **GENE** A. **MURPHY**. The convention will please come to order.

Please join me in a salute to our flag.

[Salute to the flag.]

Commander **MURPHY**. Chaplain, will you please lead us in prayer?

Chaplain **BERGSTROM**. Almighty Father, as we once again assemble, prepared to do the work that is before us, let us work with clear minds, clear hearts, and the courage and conviction to do what we must do this day. In Your name, Amen.

Commander MURPHY. At this time I'd like to introduce Ronald W. Drach, National Employment Director, for presentations of Employment Awards. [Applause.]

Mr. RONALD W. DRACH. Thank you very much, Commander. National Commander Murphy, national officers, distinguished guests, delegates, members and friends of the DAV: It is my pleasure as your national employment director to introduce the recipients of the National Commander's Employment Awards for 1988.

The first category is that of the Local Veterans Employment Representative. The individual we honor this year is employed at the Easton, Maryland, Job Service. He has found jobs for 45 percent of all veterans who came to the Easton office seeking help last year. In addition, he placed 52 percent of the disabled veterans who came in to see him.

This year his average for all veterans seeking service is closer to 60 percent. He not only does exceptional work while on the job, but he also devotes a lot of his own time to helping veterans in need of a job. Working after hours, he visits local veterans groups to promote employment programs.

He's a Korean War Air Force veteran and has worked in the Easton office since 1979. When first recruited, he brought with him a wealth of knowledge and experience from his 26 years of newspaper work with the Star Democrat.

On April 22nd of this year he received an award from the International Association of Personnel and Employment Security for the most veteran job placements in the state of Maryland.

He has also served as a member of the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped for Talbot County. In 1987 this life member of DAV chapter 31 in Easton, Maryland, received the DAV National Commanders Life Squad Recruiting Award. So he's not only involved in employment, but he's also involved in the DAV.

National Commander Murphy, it is my distinct pleasure to present to you the 1988 Outstanding Local Veterans Employment Representative, Mr. Harry Bramble of Easton, Maryland. [Applause.]

Commander MURPHY. The inscription on the plaque reads: The Disabled American Veterans proudly recognizes the contribution and presents the National Commanders Award, the National Outstanding Local Veterans Employment Representative.

Harry, congratulations. [Applause.]

Mr. HARRY BRAMBLE. National Commander, national officers, delegates and distinguished guests: In receiving this award, it is the greatest honor that has ever been bestowed upon me. It proves that the unaccomplishable can be accomplished. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr. DRACH. In accordance with the rules of the program, we also recognize the office in which the outstanding LVER is employed. Without the support and effort of the entire office staff, the LVER would be unable to accomplish many of his objectives.

Here to accept the award on behalf of the entire staff of the Easton office is Mr. Keith LeKates. [Applause.]

Commander MURPHY. The Disabled American Veterans proudly recognizes the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development distinguished service to our nation's disabled veterans in assuring them the opportunity to lead productive lives by pursuing meaningful careers. Signed July 24th, 1988, by Charles E. Joeckel, Jr., and Gene A. Murphy. [Applause.]

Mr. **Keith LeKates**. On behalf of the State of Maryland, I'd like to thank you very much, Commander Murphy, officers and distinguished guests and members.

We work real hard in the Easton office, in Easton, Maryland. I realize most of you have never even heard of it. We are very small.

But for the program here that just ended the end of June of this year, we placed 75 percent of the veterans that came through our doors. So I'm quite proud and quite honored. And I thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr. **Drach**. I forgot to indicate that Mr. LeKates is a member of chapter 34 in Maryland.

Next I feel very privileged to honor the Disabled Veteran Outreach Program representative of the year. As you know, the people who work with the DVOP program are individuals whose primary objectives are to reach out to the disabled veterans and provide employment and training information and other assistance.

The individual designated this year is in large part responsible for North Dakota's standing among the top states in service to disabled veterans. Its contacts with veterans organizations, county veterans service officers, employer groups and community leaders, have paid off with numerous jobs for veterans.

This year alone he has placed 138 veterans in jobs and made contacts for 172 more.

A dedicated professional, he's untiring in his efforts to help disabled veterans. He tells their story through personal contacts, newsletters, news stories and presentations to other local groups.

He also conducts weekly briefings for separating and retiring military personnel at Grand Forks Air Force Base.

This Vietnam era Air Force vet's numbers look great on paper. But the true measure of a DVOP specialist is a satisfied veteran. And in the case of this man, he is truly great.

In a glowing testimonial, one of his clients recently said, "During a difficult time of my unemployment, this man was an effective and motivating factor. I felt I had someone in my corner fighting for me. He is truly gifted in his work. I thank him."

National Commander Murphy, I am pleased to present to you the Outstanding Disabled Veterans Outreach program representative for 1988, Lee "Swede" Lundberg from Grand Forks, North Dakota. [Applause.]

Commander **Murphy**. The inscription on the plaque reads:

The Disabled American Veterans proudly recognize the contribution made by Lee "Swede" Lundberg, DVOP, Grand Forks, North Dakota.

It's a great honor for me to present this to you because I'm also from the Dakotas.

For his outstanding accomplishments and dedication in assisting disabled veterans obtaining employment and training opportunities, and for his contribution to the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program.

And, again, this is signed by both the national adjutant and myself. Congratulations to you. [Applause.]

Mr. **Lee "Swede" Lundberg**. Commander Gene, national officers, distinguished guests and delegates: I would like to thank, number one, my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for making my work a blessing. Number two, the many veterans I have met for making my work necessary. Number three, the Disabled American Veterans organization and Auxiliary for making my work an unforgettable honor and privilege.

Number four, my manager Larry Anderson, the best man I have ever worked for in my life, and all the job service staff for making my work easier; and my family, Jeanne and my daughters Lea and Rachel for giving me their unlimited understanding, love and support.

In respect to my business, one of my greatest pleasures is being able to provide service to a fellow veteran in terms of employment and training, because, after all, since 1968 I have been a member of the big, big family, the family of veterans.

I'm glad that I can be of some service and positive impact for that family. Family, I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr. **Drach**. We are also pleased to recognize the local office which employs Mr. Lundberg. We believe the high ranking of the State of North Dakota in the arena of service to veterans is a reflection of the dedicated professionalism of the entire Grand Forks office.

I am proud to present to you Mr. Larry Anderson, the office manager. [Applause.]

Commander **Murphy**. The inscription reads: The Disabled American Veterans proudly recognize Job Services of South Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota, for distinguished service to our nation's disabled veterans in insuring them the opportunity to lead productive lives by pursuing meaningful careers.

And, again, this is signed by National Adjutant Joeckel and Commander Murphy. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr. **Larry Anderson**. National Commander Murphy, national officers, National Employment Director Ron, Swede and Jeanne, delegates of the 67th Annual Convention, distinguished guests and fellow DAV members: I bring you greetings from North Dakota. It's a pleasure and an honor to be invited here to receive this award.

Job Service of North Dakota places a high priority in service to veterans. This has enabled Job Service of North Dakota to consistently rank among the top ten in the nation in service to veterans.

In my opinion, this is only possible through the dedication and devotion of staff like Swede in providing service to his fellow disabled veteran and to all veterans, and to the continued support from great organizations like the Disabled American Veterans in fighting for adequate funding for local veterans employment representatives, the disabled outreach staff, and for employment security staff.

We in the employment security administrative field recognize and very much appreciate the support of an organization like the DAV.

You truly do make it happen.

I want to personally and publicly congratulate, commend and thank Swede and Jeanne, and on behalf of all state employment security staff of Job Service of North Dakota, thank you very much.

We will display our award proudly in Grand Forks. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr. Drach. I have to go back and check the record but I think we have a first. This is the first year, I think, that the Local VER, the office representative, the DVOP and his or her office representative, all were members of the DAV. So I think that's something that we can be proud of, also. [Applause.]

The work that the DVOPs and the LVERs do would not be quite as successful if it weren't for enlightened employers who know that disabled veterans make good employees and are willing to show other employers that this is true.

They listened to our request for assistance from people like Harry and Swede. That's why we honor two employers: one the outstanding large employer, and the other the outstanding small employer.

This year's Outstanding Large Employer is being recognized for exemplary efforts in the employment and retention of veterans, especially service-connected disabled veterans. The many employment opportunities they provide for disabled veterans is truly significant, setting a model for other employers.

Based at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma—and I want to interject it's not the first time Oklahoma has been up there—the company employs 1,174 people. Of these 561, or 47 percent, are veterans; 37 percent of their 77 handicapped employees are disabled veterans. We congratulate this highly innovative company on its policy of preferential hiring of qualified disabled veterans, veterans, handicapped and older workers.

Here to accept the 1988 Large Employer of the Year Award on behalf of Northrop Worldwide Aircraft Service, Incorporated, is division manager and equal opportunity officer Mr. Robert J. Lines. Mr. Lines. [Applause.]

Commander Murphy. The inscription on the plaque reads: The Disabled American Veterans National Commanders Award is presented to the Outstanding Large Employer of the Year, Northrop Worldwide Aircraft Services, Incorporated, Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma, for conspicuous and meritorious efforts in providing employment opportunity for disabled veterans. Further that such consistence and noteworthy efforts will serve as an inspiration and challenge to other employers.

Again, congratulations. [Applause.]

Mr. Robert J. Lines. National Commander Gene Murphy, the other members of his staff, Ron and Mike, I thank you for this award. And on behalf of Northrop, we are pleased to accept.

I think if you were to come to our organization you would find that we are very, very pleased with our work force. I almost know the 544 because we all tell war stories. And I think I am qualified to say that I spent 31 years and 8 months and 17 days in the Air Force, and I'd still be there if they would have let me.

And I like the people I am talking to because you are my kind of people. And I think next year, since I am eligible to join, if you will send me an application, I will join. [Applause.]

Thank you very much.

Mr. **Drach**. We want to make sure we can say that all of the award winners that were eligible were members of the DAV. So we will talk to him before he leaves.

Our small employer goes all out to employ and retain disabled veterans within their firm. It's a service support company that specializes in vehicle operations and maintenance at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. 71 percent of this company's total work force is made up of veterans. 44 out of 62 employees. And they employ 14 disabled veterans; 22 percent of their entire work force are disabled vets. That's almost one fourth.

Crawford Technical Services goes beyond providing outstanding employment opportunities for disabled veterans. They also work hard to improve the accessibilty of work sites for disabled employees. They have modified their grounds to include ramps, handicapped parking, restroom access and barrier-free buildings.

I present to you Mr. O. R. Crawford, President of Crawford Technical Services, Incorporated, from Texas. [Applause.]

Commander **Murphy**. The inscription reads: The Disabled American Veterans National Commanders Award is presented to the outstanding Small Employer of the Year, Crawford Technical Services, Incorporated, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, for conspicuous and meritorious efforts in providing employment opportunity for disabled veterans. Further, that such consistent and noteworthy efforts will serve as an inspiration and challenge to other employers. [Applause.]

Mr. O. R. **Crawford**. Thank you very much. National Commander, distinguished delegates: I accept this recognition with pride on behalf of Crawford Technical Services and all of our employees. It's a real honor and I thank you.

I've got another hat I'm wearing today. And as a national vice-president of Air Force Association, I wish to salute all of you for your efforts not only in the past but in the future in keeping our wonderful country free. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr. **Drach**. I wonder if Delbert Nelson is in the audience. Maybe he would like to meet us at the side, give him a leg up on getting his first member toward the 800 goal that Butch gave him the other day.

Mr. Commander, that completes the presentation. Thank you very much.

Commander **Murphy**. Thank you very much, Ron. [Applause.]

At this time we would like to introduce the chairman of the National Finance Committee for his report, Frank J. Fantanza.

Mr. **Frank J. Fantanza**. Thank you very much, Commander. National Commander, distinguished guests and members of the Disabled American Veterans: I would like to begin my report by introducing the other members of the National Finance Committee. They are: John T. Griffin from Michigan; Billy H. Braswell from Georgia; Juan T. Urioste from New Mexico; and our national commander, Gene A. Murphy of South Dakota.

I'm very pleased to report to you that 1987 was another great financial year for the Disabled American Veterans. Total support and revenue for 1987 was $56,351,552.

During 1987, our organization spent $35,215,143 in support of our service programs. This represents 62.5 percent of total revenues received.

In 1987, $782,275 in emergency relief grants was given to 3,831 needy applicants.

A total of $8,584,228 has been granted to 49,911 relief fund applicants across the country by our national service officers since the inception of the emergency relief fund on January 1, 1973.

In 1987 the total amount granted from the disaster fund was $83,807 for a total of $2,003,982 in disaster assistance to 3,198 applicants since 1968.

$565,727 was awarded to 214 students in 1987, and $5,591,848 in college scholarships has been awarded from the scholarship fund to deserving children of service-connected disabled veterans since the inception of this program in 1968.

In order to carry out our responsibilities to the nation's disabled veterans and their families, we have a paid staff of 265 national service officers, including 38 trainees as of June 27, 1988. This is possible only because of a generous American public who support our programs with their contributions.

I am pleased to report that in 1987 the National Finance Committee approved a resolution which pledged $500,000 for the construction of the Korean War Memorial as authorized by P. L. 99–572, approved October 28, 1986.

Additionally, the National Finance Committee approved the appropriation of $100,000 for the restoration of the Corregidor battle sites. In 1986 the National Finance Committee committed two million dollars to the DAV Transportation Network.

As of December 31st, 1987, we have spent $372,192 for the purchase of 24 vans to be used in the Transportation Network Program. These vans have been donated to the various VA medical centers.

The vitality and stability of our great organization was again evident when the National Finance Committee considered the proposed budget for 1989, which provides for a continuing growth of DAV service programs by allocating more than $39.9 million to service costs and expenses in 1989. This is an increase of $1.2 million over the 1988 budget.

In addition, I am pleased to report that the life membership balance as of December 31st, 1987, was $76,193,935, an increase of $7,606,073 over 1986, and that the number of life memberships increased during this period from 664,275 to 770,003.

As I stated earlier in my report, 1987 was another record financial year for the Disabled American Veterans. The unrestricted operating and designated funds totaled $71,555,031, an increase of $3.1 million over 1986, and for the same period, the expenditures for programs services totaled $35,215,143.

You can be proud of the achievements of the national organization under the guidance of our past national adjutant, Denvel D. Adams. And we would like to commend him for his leadership during the past 25 years. He has left the organization in excellent financial condition. I am confident that the staff will continue the success that we have enjoyed during his tenure.

And I thank you very much. [Applause.]

Commander MURPHY. Thank you, Frank, very much. At this time I would like to entertain a motion to accept the report. Mike 2.

Mr. JOHN GRIFFIN. Comrade Commander, John Griffin, NEC, 10th District, moves for the adoption of the report.

Commander MURPHY. Mike 1.

Mr. GORDON THOMPSON. Comrade Commander, Gordon Thompson, Pacheco chapter 79, California, seconds the motion.

Commander MURPHY. Discussion. All in favor say Aye. All against say Nay. So moved.

Thank you very much, Frank, for the fine work of your committee. [Applause.]

[The above-mentioned reports follow:]

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Opinion of Deloitte Haskins & Sells

	Exhibit
Financial Statements:	
Balance Sheet	A
Statement of Support, Revenue and Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances	B
Statement of Functional Expenses	C
Notes to Financial Statements	

Deloitte
Haskins+Sells

250 East Fifth Street
Post Office Box 85340
Cincinnati, Ohio 45201-5340
(513) 784-7100
Telex: 214124

OPINION OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

National Finance Committee
Disabled American Veterans
National Headquarters:

We have examined the financial statements of Disabled American Veterans, National Headquarters (DAV), for the year ended December 31, 1987, listed in the foregoing table of contents. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

As described in Note 9 to the financial statements, DAV has been assessed federal income taxes and interest for the years 1974 through 1985. In order to contest the assessments for 1974 through 1985 in U.S. Tax Court, DAV paid the amounts assessed and recorded such amounts in the accompanying unrestricted fund balance sheet as a claim for refund of taxes. The amount of refund for the years 1974 through 1985, if any, that may ultimately result from the action in U.S. Tax Court, or any additional assessments that may be proposed for years after 1985 are not presently determinable.

In our opinion, subject to the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been required had the outcome of the uncertainty referred to in the preceding paragraph been known, the financial statements listed in the table of contents present fairly the financial position of Disabled American Veterans, at December 31, 1987, and the results of its operations and changes in its fund balances for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Deloitte Haskins & Sells

March 9, 1988

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

EXHIBIT A

BALANCE SHEET, DECEMBER 31, 1987 WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 1986

ASSETS	1987	1986
UNRESTRICTED OPERATING AND DESIGNATED FUNDS:		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 5,315,301	$11,584,126
Accounts receivable	1,072,522	935,830
Interest and dividends receivable	1,506,165	1,530,307
Inventories (Note 2)	1,507,655	1,099,451
Prepaid expenses	1,218,096	1,061,963
Prepaid pension expense (Note 5)	203,450	277,450
Total current assets	10,823,189	16,489,127
Investments in securities - at cost (Note 2)	52,683,942	51,921,013
Claim for refund of taxes (Note 9)	8,047,900	
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED OPERATING AND DESIGNATED FUNDS	$71,555,031	$68,410,140
FIXED ASSETS FUND (Note 2) - Land, buildings and equipment (less accumulated depreciation: 1987, $5,988,789; 1986, $5,190,799)	$ 9,406,674	$ 9,509,503
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS FUND	$ 9,406,674	$ 9,509,503
RESTRICTED LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND (Note 4):		
Cash	$1,940,882	$ 911,505
United States Treasury Bills - at cost (approximates market)	1,474,098	3,850,714
Interest and dividends receivable	1,617,998	1,586,765
Investments in securities - at cost (Note 2)	71,160,957	62,238,878
TOTAL RESTRICTED LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND	$76,193,935	$68,587,862

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	1987	1986
UNRESTRICTED OPERATING AND DESIGNATED FUNDS:		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	$ 1,213,773	$ 1,194,156
Accrued expenses:		
Salaries	1,136,381	943,367
Vacation pay and sick pay	9,672,326	8,649,571
Other	18,975	21,798
Deferred dues and service fees collected in advance, etc	2,700,546	2,734,957
Total current liabilities	14,742,001	13,543,849
Operating and designated fund balances:		
Undesignated operating fund available for general activities	53,298,065	50,952,150
Funds designated by the National Finance Committee (Note 3):		
Transportation Network Program	1,169,935	
Older veterans assistance	866,550	985,200
Scholarships	934,795	1,500,522
Emergency relief	(21,058)	759,028
Disaster relief	559,518	645,326
Health services	5,225	24,065
Total	56,813,030	54,866,291
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED OPERATING AND DESIGNATED FUNDS	$71,555,031	$68,410,140
FIXED ASSETS FUND - Fund balance	$ 9,406,674	$ 9,509,503
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS FUND	$ 9,406,674	$ 9,509,503
RESTRICTED LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND:		
Accounts payable	$ 70,594	$ 35,908
Reserve for future distribution of membership dues (Note 4)	76,123,341	68,551,954
TOTAL RESTRICTED LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND	$76,193,935	$68,587,862

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

EXHIBIT B

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUE AND EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1987 WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 1986

	UNRESTRICTED OPERATING AND DESIGNATED FUNDS	FIXED ASSETS FUND	.....TOTAL ALL FUNDS..... 1987	1986
SUPPORT AND REVENUE:				
Support:				
Contributions and revenue received from direct mail solicitations, etc.	$45,038,744		$45,038,744	$41,478,045
Donations and bequests	916,075		916,075	648,663
Total support	45,954,819		45,954,819	42,126,708
Revenue:				
Membership dues and fees (Note 4)	5,565,573		5,565,573	5,446,065
Income from investments (principally interest)	5,133,715		5,133,715	5,584,545
Gain (loss) on sale of investments	(443,925)		(443,925)	4,877,896
Sale of emblems, etc., less related direct costs (1987, $873,039; 1986, $944,048)	121,707		121,707	110,712
Gain on sale of land				791,291
Miscellaneous	19,663		19,663	157,681
Total revenue	10,396,733		10,396,733	16,968,190
Total support and revenue	56,351,552		56,351,552	59,094,898
EXPENSES (Exhibit C):				
Program services:				
Services to veterans and dependents	24,310,341	$ 570,917	24,881,258	22,948,464
Publications and other communications	3,946,507	19,485	3,965,992	4,608,991
Membership services	3,857,767	110,950	3,968,717	3,734,267
Other	2,399,176		2,399,176	1,481,781
Total program services	34,513,791	701,352	35,215,143	32,773,503
Supporting services:				
Fund raising costs	15,899,501	238,619	16,138,120	14,850,430
Administrative and general expenses	3,057,551	96,828	3,154,379	2,964,082
Total supporting services	18,957,052	335,447	19,292,499	17,814,512
Total expenses	53,470,843	1,036,799	54,507,642	50,588,015
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	2,880,709	(1,036,799)	$ 1,843,910	$ 8,506,883
FUND BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	54,866,291	9,509,503		
OTHER CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE - Fixed assets purchased by Unrestricted Operating Fund - net of retirements	(933,970)	933,970		
FUND BALANCE, END OF YEAR	$56,813,030	$9,406,674		

See notes to financial statements.

EXHIBIT C

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1987 WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 1986

	PROGRAM SERVICES					SUPPORTING SERVICES			TOTAL EXPENSES	
	SERVICES TO VETERANS AND DEPENDENTS	PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS	MEMBERSHIP SERVICES	OTHER	TOTAL	FUND RAISING COSTS	ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL EXPENSES	TOTAL	1987	1986
Salaries	$13,964,861	$ 351,126	$1,371,941		$15,687,928	$ 4,172,616	$1,465,120	$ 5,637,736	$21,325,664	$20,197,241
Employee benefits (Note 5)	4,187,960	50,473	396,950		4,635,383	1,360,845	547,834	1,908,679	6,544,062	6,556,363
Disbursements for scholarship, disaster, and relief purposes, etc.				$2,399,176	2,399,176				2,399,176	1,481,701
Expenses of National Convention	609,478				609,478				609,478	384,395
Expenses of National Commander and Staff	360,105				360,105				360,105	353,709
Payroll taxes	1,004,207	11,161	123,406		1,138,774	471,604	112,065	583,669	1,722,443	1,677,465
Travel expenses - Field Service Units and others	968,245	51,476	47,468		1,067,189	66,964	134,838	201,802	1,268,991	1,040,683
Postage	348,339	965,084	439,662		1,753,085	2,430,490	21,979	2,452,469	4,205,554	3,607,020
Rental of space and equipment	33,919	1,892	23,986		59,797	60,773	18,396	79,169	138,966	128,931
Supplies	418,856	62,623	451,635		933,114	120,197	149,537	269,734	1,202,848	1,175,934
Relocation of personnel	201,351	4,520			205,871				205,871	219,941
Expenses of national officials at state conventions	47,867				47,867				47,867	44,579
Insurance	202,124	2,025	25,075		229,224	77,274	59,581	136,855	366,079	255,898
Telephone and telegraph	132,748	4,054	6,445		143,247	13,884	23,529	37,413	180,660	120,961
Maintenance and repairs	219,366	20,148	89,055		328,569	191,955	79,050	271,005	599,574	627,367
Express and hauling	68,263	16,227	13,074		97,564	49,084	5,012	54,096	151,660	121,657
Outside service	18,246	8,725	1,217		28,188	7,890		7,890	36,078	59,023
Project cost	318,536	71,513	660,283		1,050,332				1,050,332	1,358,292
Printing of magazine		2,111,190			2,111,190				2,111,190	2,279,881
Commissions						327,702		327,702	327,702	394,294
Cost of solicitation mailings - materials						6,175,501		6,175,501	6,175,501	5,671,388
Awards			44,855		44,855				44,855	83,433
Heat, light, water, and power	132,836		94,716		227,552	148,054	24,901	172,955	400,507	432,159
Security service	59,935		13,358		73,293	143,657	3,581	147,238	220,531	212,804
Professional fees	769,995	10,000			779,995		300,895	300,895	1,080,890	718,500
Dues and subscriptions	44,419	3,231	2,038		49,688	9,375	20,215	29,590	79,278	78,203
Other	198,685	201,039	52,603		452,327	46,174	91,018	137,192	589,519	445,609
Decrease (increase) in labor and overhead costs in inventory						25,382		25,382	25,382	(16,841)
Total expenses before depreciation	24,310,341	3,946,507	3,057,767	2,399,176	34,513,791	15,699,501	3,057,551	18,957,052	53,470,843	49,704,790
Depreciation of fixed assets (Note 2)	570,917	19,485	110,950		701,352	238,619	96,828	335,447	1,036,799	883,225
TOTAL, YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1987	$24,881,258	$3,965,992	$3,168,717	$2,399,176	$35,215,143	$15,938,120	$3,154,379	$19,292,499	$54,507,642	
TOTAL, YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1986	$22,948,464	$4,608,991	$3,734,267	$1,481,701	$32,773,503	$14,850,430	$2,964,082	$17,814,512		$50,588,015

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 1987

1. ORGANIZATION

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is a Congressionally Chartered, not-for-profit service organization specifically organized to provide for the rehabilitation and continuing welfare of the Nation's disabled veterans, their families, dependents, and survivors. DAV's principal program (social) service activities are:

- maintenance of national service officers in all Veterans Administration Regional and Contact Offices to assist veterans in obtaining benefits to which they are entitled under law

- identification of veterans eligible for assistance and referral of such veterans to DAV service officers

- publication of a monthly magazine and other communications for disabled veterans, in order to provide information regarding veterans' benefits and social activities

- coordination of DAV's state departments and local membership chapters which provide a social environment to aid the veteran in personal and social development

- maintenance of special and need programs for emergency relief, disaster relief and scholarships to disabled veterans and their dependents

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Financial Statements - The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis.

Inventories - Inventories, stated at the lower of cost (principally on the first-in, first-out basis) or market, are as follows at December 31, 1987:

Materials and supplies....................	$ 700,919
Solicitation materials....................	806,736
Total.....................................	$1,507,655

Investments in Securities - Investments in securities, consisting of government and corporate bonds and corporate stocks, are recorded at cost unless management judges that there has been a permanent impairment in value. The cost of securities sold is based on specific identification of each security at the time of sale.

The approximate cost and market value of investments in securities and the net unrealized losses at December 31, 1987 are summarized below:

	Cost	Market Value	Net Unrealized Losses
Unrestricted Operating and Designated Funds.......	$ 52,683,942	$ 51,520,831	$1,163,111
Restricted Life Membership Fund...	71,160,957	69,647,073	1,513,884
Total.........	$123,844,899	$121,167,904	$2,676,995

Fixed Assets Fund - Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation, and are comprised of the following at December 31, 1987:

	Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Net Book Value
Land and improvements....	$ 932,034	$ 293,224	$ 638,810
Buildings and improvements....	6,830,757	2,028,166	4,802,591
Machinery and other equipment.	7,632,672	3,667,399	3,965,273
Total.............	$15,395,463	$5,988,789	$9,406,674

Depreciation is computed generally on the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of assets which range from 3 to 50 years.

Income Taxes - As a not-for-profit service organization, the DAV is exempt from Federal income tax as a 501C(4) organization. (See Note 8 regarding proposed tax on unrelated business income.)

3. DESIGNATED FUNDS

Certain unrestricted funds have been designated by the National Finance Committee for the following purposes:

Older Veterans Assistance Program - For the special needs of older veterans, providing assistance with medical claims, transportation and other services.

Scholarships - For financial assistance to children of disabled veterans who qualify scholastically and are in need of financial aid.

Emergency Relief - For financial assistance to disabled veterans for emergency health and welfare reasons.

Disaster Relief - For assistance to disabled veterans and their families who have suffered losses resulting from natural disasters.

Health Services - For research of health care provided by the VA hospital system.

Transportation Network Program - For transportation of veterans who are treated by the VA hospital system.

4. RESTRICTED LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND

Under the bylaws of the DAV, life membership in the organization is available and amounts so paid are required to be placed in a separate life membership fund and invested; the only allowable withdrawals from the fund are amounts required to pay chapter, department and national per capita dues for life members. Life membership receipts are deferred and recognized as income in the operating fund at the time such dues are transferred to the operating fund from the life membership fund, in accordance with the bylaws.

The following summary represents the changes during 1987 in the reserve for future distribution of membership dues:

Balance, January 1, 1987.................	$68,551,954
Additions:	
Membership dues received...............	8,321,489
Earnings on invested fund assets.......	6,376,854
Loss on sale of investments............	(226,221)
Total..................................	14,472,122
Distribution of membership dues:	
National Headquarters - Unrestricted Operating and Designated Funds.......	3,947,799
Local Chapters.........................	1,840,227
State Departments......................	1,112,709
Total..................................	6,900,735
Balance, December 31, 1987...............	$76,123,341

5. PENSION PLAN AND POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS

The organization has a defined benefit pension plan covering substantiality all of its employees. The benefits are based on years of service and the employee's compensation during the last three years of employment. Contributions are intended to provide not only for benefits attributed to service to date but also for those expected in the future.

Effective January 1, 1987, the organization adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standard No. 87 (FASB 87), Employers' Accounting for Pensions. The effect to the organization of adopting FASB 87 was not significant.

At December 31, 1987 the plan's accumulated benefit obligation, including vested benefits of $32,193,720, was $33,735,429.

The following table sets forth the plan's funded status and amounts recognized in the organization's balance sheet as of December 31, 1987:

Actuarial present value of benefit obligations:

Projected benefit obligation	$(52,886,739)
Plan assets at fair value	52,315,211
Projected benefit obligation in excess of assets	(571,528)
Unrecognized transition obligation	186,128
Unrecognized net loss	588,850
Prepaid pension cost	$ 203,450

Net pension cost for 1987, included as employee benefits expense in the accompanying statement of functional expenses, included the following components:

Service cost	$2,998,377
Interest cost	4,027,345
Actual return on plan assets	(3,501,248)
Net amortization and deferral	(465,474)
Net periodic pension cost	$3,059,000

The interest rate used in determining the actuarial present value of the projected benefit obligation was 8.5%. The rate of increase in future compensation levels was assumed to be 6%. The expected long-term rate of return on assets was assumed to be 8%.

DAV also maintains a defined contribution Salary Savings and Investment Plan for its employees. For qualified employees selecting to participate in the Plan, the DAV contributes 5% of the employees' base salary. DAV's contributions in 1987 were approximately $743,960 and are included as employee benefits expense in the accompanying statement of functional expenses.

In addition to providing pension benefits, the organization provides certain health care and life insurance benefits for its retired employees and their spouses. Substantially all of the organization's employees may become eligible for those benefits if they reach normal retirement age while working for the organization. Those and similar benefits for active employees are provided through an insurance company whose premiums are based on the benefits paid during the year. The organization recognizes the cost of providing those benefits to qualified retirees and their spouses by expensing the annual insurance premiums, which were approximately $328,500 for 1987 and are included as exployee benefits in administrative and general expenses in the accompanying statement of functional expenses.

6. DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS SERVICE FOUNDATION

The balance sheet does not include the net assets of the Disabled American Veterans Service Foundation (a separate corporation) which are held in trust by the Foundation and available to National Headquarters only by appropriation or dissolution of the Foundation. Based upon financial information (unaudited) at December 31, 1987, net assets of the Foundation were approximately $4,351,000.

7. DAV VIETNAM VETERANS NATIONAL MEMORIAL, INC.

The DAV Vietnam Veterans National Memorial, Inc. was organized to maintain a national Memorial to veterans of the Vietnam conflict. The Memorial is a separate entity from the DAV, operating under its own bylaws. Several members of the DAV Executive Committee serve on the Board of the Memorial. During 1987 the DAV provided the Memorial with computer and accounting services and solicitation space in the DAV magazine for which no compensation was received.

8. DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS CHARITABLE SERVICE TRUST

Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust was established in 1986. The Trust has applied for a 501(c)(3) tax exemption which will allow it to receive contributions from planned giving. As of year end, approximately $30,000 had been received.

9. INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE EXAMINATION

In 1987, the Internal Revenue Service, as a result of its examination of the years 1974 through 1985, assessed DAV taxes in the amount of $4,099,653 and interest through December 1, 1987 of $3,948,247. DAV believed there was no tax liability, but as a procedural matter, paid the assessments plus interest and filed a petition in the U.S. Tax Court for recovery of amounts paid plus interest. Such amounts are recorded in the unrestricted fund balance sheets as a claim for refund of taxes. The estimated tax for the years after 1985 could approximate $653,400, plus interest. The amount of the ultimate income tax deficiency of DAV for these years is not presently determinable.

Deloitte
Haskins+Sells

250 East Fifth Street
Post Office Box 85340
Cincinnati, Ohio 45201-5340
(513) 784-7100
Telex: 214124

OPINION OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

National Finance Committee,
Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary:

We have examined the balance sheet of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary as of December 31, 1987 and the related statements of revenues, expenses and changes in fund balances and of changes in financial position for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, such financial statements referred to above present fairly the financial position of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary at December 31, 1987 and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Deloitte Haskins + Sells

March 21, 1988

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

BALANCE SHEET, DECEMBER 31, 1987 WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 1986

ASSETS	NOTES	1987	1986
UNRESTRICTED OPERATING AND DESIGNATED FUNDS			
Cash and temporary cash investments		$1,147,147	$ 965,971
Accounts receivable		338	256
Materials and supplies - at cost (specific identification)		150,239	100,973
Prepaid miscellaneous expenses		4,095	1,932
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED OPERATING AND DESIGNATED FUNDS		$1,301,819	$1,069,132
RESTRICTED FUNDS (NOTE 4)			
LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND:			
Investments in securities - at cost (approximate market value: 1987, $3,933,044; 1986, $3,773,469)	2	3,889,343	$3,379,491
Accounts receivable:			
Operating Fund		366,411	293,200
Other		92,086	93,470
Total Life Membership Fund		4,347,840	3,766,161
EDUCATION LOAN FUND:			
Cash (includes money market certificates: 1987, $198,115; 1986, $186,100)		262,989	248,186
Accounts receivable - Operating Fund		48,244	17,197
Notes receivable (less allowance for doubtful notes of $7,600 in each year)		200,610	184,287
Total Education Loan Fund		511,843	449,670
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS		$4,859,683	$4,215,831

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	NOTES	1987	1986
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable:			
National Headquarters, DAV		$ 210,713	$ 130,547
Life Membership Fund		366,411	293,200
Education Loan Fund		48,244	17,197
Other		7,072	7,320
Total accounts payable		632,440	448,264
Accrued vacation and sick leave pay		72,148	54,441
Deferred membership fees	2	307,686	283,216
Total liabilities		1,012,274	785,921
FUND BALANCE - Unrestricted operating and designated funds:			
Unrestricted operating fund available for general activities		267,558	266,120
Funds designated by the National Finance Committee:	3		
Carville Fund		13,102	7,473
Freedom Foundation		8,885	9,618
Total fund balance		289,545	283,211
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED OPERATING AND DESIGNATED FUNDS		$1,301,819	$1,069,132
LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND - Reserve for future distribution of dues		$4,347,840	$3,766,161
Total Life Membership Fund		4,347,840	3,766,161
EDUCATION LOAN FUND - Fund balance		511,843	449,670
Total Education Loan Fund		511,843	449,670
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS		$4,859,683	$4,215,831

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1987 WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 1986

	NOTES	UNRESTRICTED OPERATING AND DESIGNATED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUND - EDUCATION LOAN FUND	...TOTAL ALL FUNDS... 1987	1986
REVENUES:					
Membership fees and mandates		$364,837	$ 48,335	$413,172	$380,642
Life membership dues	4	243,885		243,885	224,215
Sale of emblems, etc., less related direct cost - $56,408 in 1987 and $51,516 in 1986		4,049		4,049	11,482
Interest income		48,972	15,305	64,277	60,548
Other		14,639		14,639	7,847
Total revenues		676,382	63,640	740,022	684,734
EXPENSES:					
Salaries and wages		212,440		212,440	144,460
Payroll taxes		22,826		22,826	18,559
Conferences and meetings		29,062	1,467	30,529	32,336
Expenses of National Convention		35,287		35,287	33,100
Printing, stationery and office supplies		48,262		48,262	43,905
Expenses of National Commander and officers		16,889		16,889	21,647
Employee benefits	5	101,024		101,024	72,275
Postage		50,349		50,349	44,206
Travel		31,876		31,876	28,800
Professional fees		9,900		9,900	9,900
VAVS, memberships and other awards		18,056		18,056	21,536
Solicitation materials		70,054		70,054	
Other		24,023		24,023	15,720
Total expenses		670,048	1,467	$671,515	$486,444
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES		6,334	62,173		
FUND BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR		283,211	449,670		
FUND BALANCE, END OF YEAR		$289,545	$511,843		

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1987 WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 1986

	UNRESTRICTED OPERATING AND DESIGNATED FUNDS	....RESTRICTED FUNDS...		...TOTAL ALL FUNDS...	
		LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND	EDUCATION LOAN FUND	1987	1986
SOURCES OF FUNDS:					
Excess of revenues over expenses	$ 6,334		$ 62,173	$ 68,507	$198,290
Increase in accounts payable and accrued expenses	201,883			201,883	141,378
Increase in reserve for future distribution of dues		$581,679		581,679	520,592
Increase in deferred membership fees	24,470			24,470	2,656
Total	232,687	581,679	62,173	876,539	862,916
USES OF FUNDS:					
Increase (decrease) in prepaid miscellaneous	2,163			2,163	(4,769)
Increase in accounts receivable	82	71,827	31,047	102,956	99,547
Increase (decrease) in materials and supplies	49,266			49,266	(237)
Increase in notes receivable - net			16,323	16,323	7,931
Purchase of securities - net		509,852		509,852	393,979
Total	51,511	581,679	47,370	680,560	496,451
INCREASE IN CASH	181,176		14,803	$195,979	$366,465
CASH:					
Beginning of year	965,971		248,186		
End of year	$1,147,147	$ -0-	$262,989		

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 1987

1. ORGANIZATION

The Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary (DAV Auxiliary) is a not-for-profit service organization organized under the provisions of the National Constitution of the Disabled American Veterans. The DAV Auxiliary is organized for the betterment and improvement of the nation's disabled veterans and their families and for cooperation with all patriotic organizations and public agencies devoted to this purpose.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Financial Statements - The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the principles contained in the Audits of Certain Nonprofit Organizations Guide published by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Investments - Investments in securities are recorded at cost unless management judges that there has been a permanent impairment in value. Gains and losses resulting from the sale of securities are recognized at the time of disposition and are computed using the specific identification method.

Deferred Membership Fees - The DAV Auxiliary accounts for membership fees by deferring fees received in advance of the membership year (July 1 to June 30) and amortizing them to income ratably during the membership year for which they are paid.

3. DESIGNATED FUNDS

The DAV Auxiliary National Finance Committee has designated certain unrestricted funds for the following purposes:

Carville Fund - For the benefit of persons afflicted with Hansen's Disease being treated at the U. S. Public Health Service Hospital, Carville, Louisiana.

Freedom Foundation - For the purpose of providing financial aid to elementary and secondary school teachers attending annual summer teaching seminars held at the Freedom Foundation, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

4. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Life Membership Fund - Under the by-laws of the DAV Auxiliary, life membership in the organization is available and amounts so paid are required to be placed in a separate life membership fund and invested; the only allowable withdrawals from the fund are amounts required to pay local units, state departments and national headquarters per capita dues for life members. Life membership receipts are deferred and recognized as income in the operating fund at the time such dues are transferred to the operating fund from the life membership fund, in accordance with the by-laws.

The following summary represents the changes during 1987 in the reserve for future distribution of dues:

Balance, January 1, 1987	$3,766,161
Additions:	
Membership dues received	406,827
Earnings on invested fund assets	511,353
Total	4,684,341
Distributions of dues:	
National Headquarters operating fund	243,885
Local units	48,378
State Departments	35,827
Investment fee	8,411
Total	336,501
Balance, December 31, 1987	$4,347,840

Education Loan Fund - Under the by-laws of the DAV Auxiliary, amounts received from each unit as a mandate for educational loans are placed in a separate fund and invested; withdrawals are made from the fund for loans to students. The DAV Auxiliary also allocates expenses from the unrestricted operating fund to the educational loan fund for costs incurred to administer the fund.

5. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

All employees of the DAV Auxiliary are covered by the Disabled American Veterans Retirement Plan. The Disabled American Veterans has a defined benefit pension plan covering substantially all of its employees. The benefits are based on years of service and the employee's compensation during the last three years of service. Contributions are intended to provide not only for benefits attributed to service to date, but also for those expected in the future.

Effective January 1, 1987, the organization adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 87 (FASB 87), Employers Accounting for Pensions. The effect to the organization of FASB 87 was not significant. In 1987, the DAV Auxiliary reimbursed the DAV National Headquarters $36,884 for its share of the retirement plan cost.

6. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The DAV Auxiliary occupies space in the Disabled American Veterans National Headquarter's building and also uses office equipment owned by the Disabled American Veterans. No fees are charged for such usage.

Commander MURPHY. It's always a pleasure to share the podium with my good friend Dennis Joyner. He served our organization well as national commander, and he truly deserves the honor of being named Handicapped American of the Year in 1984 by the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

Dennis has remained totally involved in the DAV affairs since that time, including his current responsibility as adjutant for the department of California DAV.

In addition, he recently completed his fourth year as president of the Board of Directors for the DAV Vietnam Veterans National Memorial. And it is in that important role that he will report to you this afternoon.

Dennis, I know that the delegates welcome you and your remarks.

Mr. DENNIS A. JOYNER. Thank you, Commander. [A slide presentation was shown during the report.]

It's always exciting to tell our convention delegates about what's happening at the DAV Vietnam Veterans National Memorial in Angel Fire, New Mexico. Without doubt, one of the most significant events of this past year came when President Reagan signed legislation which formally recognized this landmark as a national memorial.

Much credit for this achievement must go to New Mexico's congressional delegation. Jeff Bingaman and Pete Domenici in the Senate and Bill Richardson, Manuel Luhan and Joe Skeen in the House of Representatives.

During the 12-month period from March 1987 until February 1988, nearly 50,000 people passed through the doors of the memorial chapel and the visitors center.

And this summer's tourist season is attracting visitors in even greater numbers. They come from all parts of the nation to pay tribute to the fallen heroes of the Vietnam War, as well as those who died in this nation's earlier armed conflicts.

Again, as in the past, solemn Memorial Day ceremonies gave people that special opportunity to honor and remember loved ones.

The keynote speaker for the Memorial Day services was James E. Webb, Jr., former Secretary of the Navy, whose recollections of the war in Vietnam have been captured in three best selling novels.

Other speakers included our own national commander, Gene Murphy. And there was also Doctor Victor Westphall, the man whose love for his son and twelve fellow comrades was the genesis of the DAV Vietnam Veterans National Memorial 18 years ago.

During the Memorial Day weekend, more than 4,000 individuals participated in the various events. They felt that special thrill as the Stars and Stripes flew proudly against the blue skies of New Mexico. They joined the firing squad with bowed heads as the strains of taps echoed across the mountainside.

They cheered as helicopters roared overhead in final salute to those whose memories will forever be honored at the DAV Vietnam Veterans National Memorial. And they thronged visitors center to spend quiet moments viewing pictorial displays and memorabilia of a war which so many can never forget.

The visitors center provided them with not only a history of the conflict in Vietnam, but also with a shared awareness of the sacrifices made by America's brave men and women during time of armed aggression.

During the weekend activities, the Board of Directors for the DAV Vietnam Veterans National Memorial held meetings to review progress and to map plans for further developments.

This board of directors takes its responsibility seriously in order that the message of the DAV Vietnam Veterans National Memorial is perpetuated for many generations to come. And every member of the board realizes that so many of its successes would have been impossible without the support of thousands of DAV and DAV Auxiliary members, as well as chapters and departments.

Your generosity has shown America that the DAV and the DAV Auxiliary are number one when it comes to honoring our nation's sons and daughters. And I know that you will continue to support the DAV Vietnam Veterans National Memorial, because it is your personal gift to a grateful nation.

Many thanks for allowing me these few minutes to tell you more about your DAV Vietnam Veterans National Memorial, and as well, for the next few minutes, during which any donations that you may wish to make will be accepted.

Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander Murphy. At this time I will entertain a motion to accept the report. Mike 2.

Mr. Linden. Al Linden, delegate, chapter 93, Florida, moves for the adoption of the President's Report.

Commander Murphy. Do I have a second? Mike 2.

Mr. Walter H. Wessing. Mike 2, Walter Wessing, Kansas City, Missouri, chapter number 2, second the motion.

Commander Murphy. On the motion, all in favor say Aye. All against say Nay. So moved.

At this time, Dennis will take over the podium, and he will accept any contributions from chapters, departments or individuals.

Mr. John Weideman. Dennis, on behalf of the department of Colorado and our memorial board who changed the president George Long to secretary-treasurer, I would like to introduce our department commander who will make a presentation of $5,000.

Mr. Joseph J. Schmidt. I'm Joe Schmidt, commander for the Disabled American Veterans, department of Colorado. Dennis, we have a check here for $5,000 for this worthy cause. [Applause.]

Member. I don't think that anybody at National has heard about the Fighting 39th from Pueblo, Colorado. We donate a check for $200.

Mr. Lee H. Oates. My name is Lee Oates from Minneapolis, chapter number 1. Dear Mr. Joyner: Enclosed is a check for $250 donated to the Vietnam National Memorial. We wish you continued success for this most worthy tribute to the Vietnam veteran. [Applause.]

Ms. Linda Earley. Dennis, the department of Wyoming hands you $100 and hope you continued success.

Member. Past National Commander Dennis, I'm going to give you $80, twice your age. I thought he was 40. I'm going to double that, make it 80. But this is from chapter 2 of Kansas City, Missouri. Next year for all commanders of our chapter, next year I'm going to give $100 for all past commanders if I'm still living yet. [Applause.]

MEMBER. Chapter 15, Minnesota, $50.

MEMBER. Tri-City chapter 95 from Oceanside, California, $100.

MEMBER. Chapter number 1, South Dakota, the home chapter of National Commander Murphy, $250. [Applause.]

Mr. JOYNER. Just again I want to thank each and every one of you for the support you have shown today, in addition to the support that you have given to the memorial over the years and visiting it and backing us in these endeavors. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander MURPHY. Jack Cannon, $100. Ron Drach and Carolyn Drach, $50. [Applause.]

I would also like to thank all the individuals who have made a contribution. And, again, if you have your checkbook handy later, you can see Dennis in the hallways or wherever, because he will take any other contributions.

Roy Goch, chapter 9, contributing to Dale Adams, $50. The total is $6,230. [Applause.]

At this time I'd like to call Joe Harold, the chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for the first reading of amendments to the National Constitution and Bylaws.

Mr. JOSEPH R. HAROLD. Comrade Commander and delegates: The National Convention Committee on Constitution and Bylaws was called to order for its first business session on July 25th, 1988, by the committee advisor Thomas Dehne.

First order of business was the election of convention committee chairman. Joe Harold of Boston was nominated for chairman. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and Joe Harold was elected as chairman.

Next order of business was nomination and election of secretary. Dick Sarrazin of San Antone, Texas, was nominated and elected secretary of the committee. The committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted, and I will report to you now the resolutions and their recommendations.

This is a reminder to everybody. If there's any amendments, they must be submitted today.

We had 21 convention delegates there, and we had all the alternates. And this report was accepted unanimously. I think there's three amendments to the approved resolutions.

And we had four resolutions that were rejected. Resolution number 90, resolution number 188, resolution number 350, resolution number 353. They were rejected, 20 were approved.

If there's any amendments to these, I will try to read them as slow as I can. And if you think you have an amendment you wish to submit, do it at this time. But the report today from those 21 representatives was unanimous.

Tomorrow morning after this report is read today—in fact, they are being printed now—they will be printed and they will be distributed tomorrow. They will be passed out at the door. They won't be put on the chairs. So make sure you see one of the service officers tomorrow and pick up a copy. We will try to give you at least an hour to read them and to review the records.

If there's any question you have this afternoon or tonight, I wold be happy to answer them. I will be at the Commanders and Adjutants meeting this afternoon, and I will be down at District 1 this afternoon after this meeting. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

And there will be no discussion on these at this time unless you have an amendment that you may think you need.

The first is resolution number 2. And I will read off the names of the members of the committee tomorrow.

Resolution number 2. Be it resolved that Article, Section 6.5, Paragraph 1(a), page 21, be amended by adding after the last sentence the following: The State Commander may also direct that any funds deposited in a financial institution in the name of the chapter be frozen during the period of suspension.

Resolution number 3. Resolved that Article 6, Section 6.5, Paragraph 1(b), page 21, add the following, after the second sentence the following: He may also direct—and "he" in this case means the national commander—he may also direct that any funds deposited in a financial institution in the name of the chapter, state department or subordinate unit be frozen during the period of suspension.

Resolution number 4. Be it resolved that Article 8, Section 8.4, page 29.

If I am going too fast, let me know. I don't assume that you have your Bylaws with you today, so you will just have to trust us.

Be it resolved that Article 8, Section 8.4, page 29, line 6, be amended by omitting "four months and fifteen days" and inserting "ninety days."

The next resolution, number 5. Be it resolved that Article 9, Section 9.3, page 31, line 7, be amended by omitting "four months and fifteen days," inserting "ninety days."

I'll explain these tomorrow in detail.

Resolution number 6. Be it resolved that Article 11, Section 11.8, paragraph 2(a), page 35, line 2, be amended by changing "two full fiscal years" to "three full fiscal years."

Resolution number 7. Be it resolved that Article 11, Section 11.11, Paragraph 5(b), page 39, be amended to read in its entirety as follows: (b) If there's any question on the eligibility, it shall be submitted to the National Adjutant for his decision.

Resolution number 8. Be it resolved that Article 14, Section 14.10, be amended by striking out the entire section and substitute the following: National headquarters shall provide a blanket fidelity bond at its expense with a maximum liability of $100,000 covering all elected or appointed state department and chapter officers. Such fidelity bond shall not cover the first $1,000 of any loss.

Be it resolved—resolution number 9—that Article 15, Section 15.7, Paragraph 3, page 52, be amended to read as follows: Paragraph 3. Each subordinate body shall, notwithstanding any other provision of these Bylaws, submit to the National Organization through the National Inspector General an annual financial statement within ninety days after the close of its fiscal year or within ninety days of a receipt of a demand by the National Finance Committee. The statement must be audited by a certified public accountant if the gross annual income, excluding membership per capita, exceeds 50,000 from all sources. In addition, for each month that the gross monthly income exceeds 10,000 an unaudited report will be required to be sent to National Headquarters.

Resolution 10. Be it resolved that Article 16, page 53, be amended by striking out the entire Article and substituting the following.

Now, technically, I'm supposed to read this word for word, but they are going to be printed tomorrow. And this is Article 16, which is the trials, and it's two pages long. If you have no objection, I will read the first and last paragraph, and assume we read the ones in between, if there's no objection.

Article 16, disciplinary actions. Section 16.1, offenses and penalties. Paragraph 1: The state commander, with the concurrence of a majority of state executive committee and the approval of the National Commander, may reprimand, suspend for a specific period, transfer permanently or expel a member for:—and then gives the violations.

I will explain it tomorrow a little bit better in detail.

And paragraph 3 in page 4 of the report, but page 2 of this: In the event of expulsion, the National Commander may in his discretion refund the balance of dues, whether life or annual, anything to the contrary in these Bylaws notwithstanding.

And we are assuming I read the whole thing, if there's no objection.

Resolution number 11. Be it resolved that Article 7, Section 7.2, Paragraph 1, page 23, be amended by deleting "and an Executive Director of the Washington Headquarters."

Resolution number 12. Be it resolved that Article 7, Section 7.2, page 23, be amended by deleting paragraph 2 in its entirety and renumbering the remaining paragraphs.

Resolution number 13. This has six changes in it. Six paragraphs.

And if you don't mind, I will just read the first and last, and then you can pick them up tomorrow and I'll explain each one in detail if it's necessary.

Resolution number 13. Be it resolved that Article 7, Section 7.4, page 24, be amended to read as follows:

Paragraph 1: The National Adjutant subject to the instructions of the National Commander, National Executive Committee or the National Convention shall supervise and direct all activities of the National Organization.

Then it goes on to detail the duties of the National Adjutant and Executive Director, and the secretary of the corporation, National Adjutant shall be subject to and shall comply and obey all decisions of the NEC and so forth. The National Adjutant shall appoint an administrative director who is subject to the instruction . . . the National Adjutant shall manage the activities of the National Headquarters office in Cold Springs, Kentucky.

Then the next is Paragraph 5: The National Adjutant, by and with the consent of the National Commander, shall appoint an Inspector General.

And then Paragraph 6: The National Adjutant, by and with the consent of the National Commander, shall appoint Directors, Assistant Directors and such other employees as may be deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of his office and with the consent of the National Finance Committee determine their salaries.

Next, Resolution number 14: Be it resolved that Article 7, Section 7.7, pages 25 and 26, be amended by deleting Section 7.7 in its entirety and renumbering the remaining sections.

Resolution number 17: Be it resolved that Article 2, Section 2.2, page 5, be amended by adding the following new paragraph 3. Paragraph 3: In the absence of any mandate to cover any matter wherein laws already enacted by Congress are under attack, the National Commander, National Adjutant and National Executive Committee are hereby placed under a continuing mandate by these Bylaws to resist and oppose any such changes in laws or regulations advocated by any Presidential commission, Executive Order, by special investigative commission created by Congress, or any legislative bills sponsored by any standing or special committee of the Congress that would repeal or deprive veterans or the dependents of benefits already granted by such laws.

Resolution number 18. Be it resolved that Article 7, Section 7.9, Paragraph 1, page 27, be amended to read as follows: The National Commander shall delegate to the National Adjutant the authority to appoint such National Service Officers as are found necessary. Their salaries shall be set forth as an item of the budget. He shall direct the National Service Offices, and National Service Offices trainees, any training program relating to National Service Officers and all other service activities of the National Organization.

I should say that we are eliminating the national—let's see, the Executive Director of the Washington office. And because of that, when we deleted the entire Section 7.7, we have to take that 7.7 and put it according to where it belongs in the different areas of the Bylaws. And that's why some of these things that you are reading are already part of the law, the hearing.

Resolution number 19. Be it resolved that Article 12, Section 12.2, Paragraph 1, lines 1, 2 and 3, page 40, be amended by omitting "an Assistant National Adjutant or the Executive Director of the Washington headquarters."

Resolution number 20. Be it resolved that Article 12, Section 12.4, pages 41 and 42, be amended to read as follows: Paragraph 1: The salary of the National Adjutant shall be determined by the National Finance Committee. Paragraph 2: The National Commander shall not be considered a paid employee of the National Organization; and in lieu of compensation, he shall receive an amount as expenses for his year's tenure to be fixed by the National Finance Committee. Transportation expense shall be allowed in addition.

Resolution number 21. Be it resolved that Article 17, Section 17.1, Paragraph 3, page 55, be amended to read as follows: Paragraph 3: The office of National Commander is comparable to that of a president of a corporation; a National Vice-Commander, a vice-president; the National Adjutant, an executive director and secretary; the Administrative Director, an assistant secretary; and the National Executive Committee is comparable to a corporate board of directors.

Resolution number 22. Be it resolved that Article 2, Section 2.2, Paragraph 2, page 5, line 6, be amended by omitting the words "Article 7, Section 7.7" and inserting "Paragraph 3 of this section."

Resolution number 23. Be it resolved that Article 7, Section 7.8, Paragraph 1, page 26, be amended to read as follows: The Inspector General, under the supervision of the National Adjutant, or the National Adjutant's designee, shall investigate any alleged violation of the National Constitution and Bylaws, including but not limited to occurrences in any state department, chapter, county or district council, women's auxiliary or NOTR unit, which may impugn the integrity or reputation of the organization. He shall report his findings and recommendations to the National Adjutant or his designee.

Resolution number 24. Be it resolved Article 3, Section 3.10, page 13, be amended by striking out Rule 21(d), Committee on Veterans' Rights, and the remaining paragraphs be relettered and Rule 21(c) be amended to read:

(c) Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights: This committee shall consider all resolutions proposing or requiring legislation on compensation, pensions, legal and guardianship matters and appeals, as well as on all matters of policy and procedure with the Veterans Administration, including problems involving National Service Life Insurance. It shall consider all resolutions not requiring legislation on compensation, pensions, legal and guardianship matters and appeals, and all other matters in which other public and private agencies charged with the rehabilitation and improvement of the disabled veterans and his dependents are concerned.

Resolution number 25. Be it resolved that Article 3, Section 3.10, page 14 and 15, be amended by striking out Rule 21(g) and 21(j), and the remaining paragraphs be relettered and Rule 21(b), page 13, to be amended to read:

(b) Committee and General Resolutions, National Security, Americanism and Membership: This committee shall consider all matters which are not covered by the resolution referable to other committees of this convention, and shall formulate and give expressions of thanks, appreciation and condolence, in resolution form, and shall consider housing problems as they may affect disabled veterans. It shall consider all matters referred to it which pertains to citizenship, Americanism, national defense or the security of the United States.

It shall consider all matters concerning membership activities and eligibility requirements.

Resolution number 26. Be it resolved that Article 3, Section 3.10, Rule 21(i), page 15, be amended to read as follows:

(g) Committee on Hospital and Volunteer Services: This committee shall consider questions concerning the standards of medical care delivery by VA hospitals and outpatient clinics, and all matters pertaining to the DAV volunteer service programs.

Resolution number 27. Be it resolved that Article 7, Section 7.12, page 28, be amended to read as follows: The National Commander, within sixty days after his election, shall appoint the following interim committees: Constitution and Bylaws; Membership; Legislation; Employment; and Hospital and Volunteer Services. The members of such committee shall serve without compensation.

Resolution number 28. Be it resolved that Article 3, Section 3.3, paragraph 2, page 6, be amended by adding the words "at least" between "committee" on the second line and "three" on the third line.

Resolution number 29. Be it resolved that the Official Ritual—DAV Chapter Meeting on page 58 be amended by striking out 15 entirely and substitute the following:

"15. Memorial Ceremony."

Resolution number 30. Be it resolved that the Official Ritual, page 59, be amended by adding at the end of the page, and as a new paragraph, the word "two."

Resolution number 31. Be it resolved that the Official Ritual, page 66, be amended by adding after the sixth line the word "two."

I want to thank you for your patience, and we will try to explain it all in detail tomorrow. And I hope that you will be there in time so you can have a chance to read all these resolutions. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Commander MURPHY. Thank you very much, Joe. At this time we will call the Employment Committee, which is ready for their report. Len Gilmore.

Mr. LENNOX R. GILMORE. Comrade Commander and delegates: The National Convention Committee on Employment was called to order for its first business session on July the 25th, 1988, by the committee advisor, Employment Director Ronald Drach, and the past national commander and Employment Interim Committee chairman Mr. Frank Randazzo.

The first order of business was the election of the convention committee chairman, Mr. Armando Albarran, who was nominated for the chairman.

There being no further nominations, nominations were closed, and Mr. Armando Albarran was elected chairman.

The next order of business was the nomination/election of the secretary. Lennox Gilmer was nominated and elected as the secretary of the committee.

The committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted, and I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by this National Convention.

For the purposes of saving time, I will read only the number and titles of the resolutions.

Resolution number 138. Delete time limit for definition of Vietnam era veterans for employment service purposes past the year 1991.

Resolution number 305. Urge the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training Service to hire more disabled veterans.

Resolution number 281. Support a national centralized applicant referral service program.

Resolution number 180. Support employment seminars for retiring and separated service personnel nationally.

Resolution number 272. Amend the definition of disabled veterans under chapters 41 and 42 of Title 38, United States Code.

Resolution number 307. Allow dislocated and underemployed service-connected disabled veterans to participate in the Veterans Job Training Act and to make the Veterans Job Training Act permanent.

Resolution number 134. Provide for veterans preference in the Joint Training Partnership Act.

Resolution number 149. Oppose the use of validity generalization in the employment service.

Resolution number 302. Transfer enforcement functions for affirmative actions from the office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Veterans Employment and Training Service.

Resolution number 313. Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs provide adequate training for their personnel for affirmative action for veterans.

Resolution number 122. Provide equal treatment in Federal employment benefits for service-connected disabled veterans who are military retirees.

Resolution number 291. To provide for Purple Heart recipients to be considered compensable disabled for purposes of veterans preference in Federal Civil Service System.

Resolution number 294. Support a strong centralized employment service system.

Resolution number 295. Oppose changes to the Federal retirement system adversely affecting service-connected disabled veterans.

Resolution number 296. Provide disabled veterans who retire from military service for disability be permitted to apply for all military service toward Civil Service retirement.

Resolution number 300. Provide unemployment compensation benefits to ex-service persons as they are paid to other applicants for unemployment insurance.

Resolution number 312. Require the staff of the Veterans Reemployment Rights program to be veterans.

Resolution number 108. Provide penalties against Federal employers violating affirmative action for disabled veterans.

Resolution number 116. Amend the Disabled Veterans Affirmative Action program to require reasons to be written for non-selection of disabled veterans in hiring.

Resolution number 151. Federal agencies assign veterans program managers who shall be preference eligibles.

Resolution number 301. Enforcement of affirmative action for disabled veterans in hiring in Federal contractor jobs.

Resolution number 280. Support the President's Committee on Employment of people with disabilities.

Resolution number 279. Amend the Small Business Administration programs to include disabled veterans.

Resolution number 308. To support Federal programs to aid homeless service-connected veterans.

Resolution number 131. Training and retraining for veteran dislocated workers.

Resolution number 202. Provides for adequate funding for VA vocational rehabilitation staff and provides for the permitting of state and local government agencies to participate in unpaid OJT and work experience programs under the authority of Chapter 31, Title 38, United States Code.

Resolution number 273. In support of additional staffing for the vocational rehabilitation staff, to provide for adequately filling positions of job placement specialists.

Resolution number 274. Require the VA vocational rehabilitation staff to provide employment services to any service-connected disabled veterans who request such services.

Resolution number 277. Expedite vocational rehabilitation services for military personnel who have potential eligibility.

Resolution number 309. Provide vocational rehabilitation to all compensably disabled veterans.

Resolution number 276. U.S. Postal Service use the Disabled Veteran Affirmative Action program, and Veterans Readjustment Appointments.

Resolution number 201. Reinforce support and seek improvements in veterans preference programs.

Resolution number 275. Extend the Veterans Readjustment Appointments to the year 2000.

Resolution number 282. Improve employment opportunities for disabled veterans in the Federal government.

Resolution number 306. Promote use of special hiring authority of 30 percent service-connected disabled veterans.

Resolution number 039. Oppose contracting out of Federal jobs.

Resolution number 372. Adequate funding and permanency for Veterans Employment and Training and Small Business Administration programs.

Resolution number 362. Transfer Veterans Employment and Training Services to the Veterans Administration.

Resolution number 371. Allow Chapter 35 recipients to be eligible for the VA work study program.

Resolution number 373. Amend the Inter-Agency Committee on Handicapped Employees.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Employment Committee of the National Convention, and I move the adoption of these resolutions, and that the committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander MURPHY. Thank you. You have heard the motion. Do I have a second? Mike 2.

Mr. **Harold**. Harold, Boston, 10, seconds that motion.

Commander **Murphy**. Discussion. All in favor say Aye. All against say Nay. So moved. [Applause.]

[The above-mentioned resolutions follow:]

Resolution No. 039—Legislative

TO OPPOSE CONTRACTING OUT TO PRIVATE CONTRACTORS CERTAIN SERVICES CURRENTLY PERFORMED BY FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Whereas, disabled veterans currently enjoy veterans' preference in federal employment; and

Whereas, the federal government has renewed its effort to expand its "contracting services" to outside contractors thereby eliminating thousands of jobs in the federal sector; and

Whereas, the elimination of these jobs would impact adversely on employment opportunities for disabled veterans in the federal sector: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 oppose the further contracting out of services currently performed by federal employees.

Resolution No. 108—Legislative

PROVIDE PENALTIES AGAINST FEDERAL EMPLOYERS WHO VIOLATE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS FOR DISABLED VETERANS

Whereas, disabled veterans are entitled to affirmative action under Section 2014, Title 38, U.S. Code; and

Whereas, this affirmative action is in addition to basic veterans' preference; and

Whereas, many federal departments and agencies do not have an effective affirmative action program for disabled veterans; and

Whereas, there are no sanctions, penalties or other remedial actions available for violations of the affirmative action provisions of Section 2014, Title 38, U.S. Code: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support legislation that would provide a $1,000 per day fine, following a ten day warning period, against any civilian personnel officer in the federal government who does not comply with the provisions of Section 2014, Title 38, U.S. Code.

Resolution No. 116—Legislative

TO AMEND THE DISABLED VETERANS AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAM

Whereas, Section 2014, Title 38, U.S. Code, mandates federal agencies to promote maximum employment and job advancement opportunities within the federal government for qualified disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam Era, to include hiring under Executive Order 11521 (VRA); and

Whereas, the disabled veteran Affirmative Action Program is not adequately enforced and does not provide any mechanism to grant relief to an individual who believes an agency may have violated his/her rights: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support legislation to require federal agencies to specify in writing the reason for non-selection of a qualified disabled veteran who is on the referral list for employment or promotion and who is listed as one of the best qualified.

Resolution No. 122—Legislative

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR MILITARY RETIREES WHO WERE NOT RETIRED ON DISABILITY BECAUSE OF AN INSTRUMENTALITY OF WAR

Whereas, federal laws restrict certain employment benefits to disabled military retirees whose disability was not caused by an instrumentality of war; and

Whereas, no such restriction exists for DAV membership or rates of compensation payable by the Veterans Administration: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 seek legislation that would grant equal employment benefits to disabled military retirees regardless of whether their disability was caused by an instrumentality of war and who are federal employees.

RESOLUTION No. 131—ADMINISTRATIVE

ESTABLISH A VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND RETRAINING PROGRAM FOR VETERANS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Whereas, veterans comprise a significant percentage of the civilian labor force and among the dislocated worker; and

Whereas, veterans are not targeted for services under JTPA or the Trade Bill intended to help dislocated workers: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support a vocational training and retraining program for veterans in the Department of Labor.

RESOLUTION No. 134—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE PREFERENTIAL SERVICES TO VETERANS UNDER JTPA

Whereas, Title IIA and III of JTPA is designed to assist unskilled adults and dislocated workers; and

Whereas, veterans are not identified as a target group to be served under Title IIA and III; and

Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans believes very strongly service-connected disabled veterans should receive top priority in all employment and training programs: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans and National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support legislation to provide preference to veterans, especially service-connected disabled veterans, in all JTPA programs and to include Congressionally chartered service organizations as members of the private Industry Counsels.

RESOLUTION No. 138—LEGISLATIVE

DELETE TIME LIMIT FOR VIETNAM VETERANS FOR EMPLOYMENT PURPOSES IN SECTION 2011, TITLE 38, U.S. CODE

Whereas, Section 2011(2)(B), Title 38, U.S. Code deletes any reference to "Veterans of the Vietnam era after December 31, 1991; and

Whereas, many Vietnam era veterans continue to face discrimination and require certain employment services: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 seek a legislative change to delete Section 2011(2)(B) from Title 38, U.S. Code.

RESOLUTION No. 149—ADMINISTRATIVE

PROVIDE FOR VETERANS' PREFERENCE IN VALIDITY GENERALIZATION

Whereas, the Department of Labor, in cooperation with the State Employment Security Agencies, is developing an employment service referral system based on a "validity generalization concept;" and

Whereas, this concept is a guideline based on testing and counseling; and

Whereas, the potential exists for non-veterans to be referred before veterans based on this numerical ranking: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 request the Department of Labor to ensure that the validity generalization system contain a specific veterans' preference clause (numerical or otherwise) to assure that the veterans' preference provisions of Chapter 41, Title 38, U.S. Code, are incorporated.

RESOLUTION NO. 151—ADMINISTRATIVE

APPOINT AFFIRMATIVE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM MANAGERS FOR VETERANS' PROGRAMS IN FEDERAL AGENCIES

Whereas, affirmative action for service-connected disabled veterans is mandated by law; and

Whereas, federal agencies have no special program manager to determine veterans are receiving appropriate statutory preference; and

Whereas, federal agencies have assigned a special program manager for other targeted groups, e.g., native Americans, hispanics, blacks and women: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 petition federal agencies to assign an affirmative employment program manager for veterans' programs who shall be a preference eligible veteran to assure compliance with federal mandates dealing with veterans' preference and affirmative action.

RESOLUTION NO. 180—LEGISLATIVE

EMPLOYMENT SEMINARS FOR RETIRING AND SEPARATING SERVICEPERSONS

Whereas, many thousands of servicepersons leave the military service every year and seek employment in civilian occupations; and

Whereas, a very high percentage of this group do not have the basic skills and knowledge needed in order to conduct a successful job search; and

Whereas, there are two successful pilot programs presently being conducted specifically for the purpose of teaching necessary skills such as resume writing and job interview techniques. This employment-related material is being presented when needed most—just prior to exiting the service. This information is absolutely essential to make a smooth transition into the civilian labor market: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 request the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training (ASVETS) to meet the stated need by making a concentrated effort to coordinate with the Department of Defense which would result in expansion of these programs to major military installations throughout the country.

RESOLUTION NO. 201—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORTING VETERANS' PREFERENCE IN FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT

Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans has strongly supported federal, state and local veterans' preference laws; and

Whereas, attempts are being made to weaken, dilute and circumvent existing veterans' preference laws: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 support veterans' preference in federal, state and local employment.

RESOLUTION NO. 202—LEGISLATIVE

TO ESTABLISH JOB PLACEMENT SPECIALIST POSITIONS IN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND UTILIZE STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES FOR UNPAID WORK EXPERIENCE FOR DISABLED VETERANS

Whereas, the VA's Vocational Rehabilitation Program is mandated to provide employment services to certain disabled veterans; and

Whereas, federal, but not state or local, agencies can be used to provide unpaid work experience opportunities for disabled veterans: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 that the VA establish job placement specialist positions in vocational rehabilitation and allow state and local agencies to participate in the unpaid work experience program.

Resolution No. 272—Legislative

TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF DISABLED VETERAN FOR PURPOSES OF BENEFITS ADMINISTERED UNDER CHAPTER 42, TITLE 38, U.S. CODE

Whereas, Chapter 42, Title 38, U.S. Code, defines a disabled veteran as one who is rated 30% or more service-connected disabled or as one who was discharged or released from active duty because of a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty; and

Whereas, disabled veterans continue to bear a disproportionate unemployment rate and have not received adequate assistance under Chapter 42, Title 38, U.S. Code: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support legislation to amend Section 2011 of Title 38, U.S. Code, to redefine the term "disabled veteran" as "one who has a compensable service-connected disability under laws administered by the Veterans Administration or one whose discharge or release from active duty was for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty."

Resolution No. 273—Legislative

IN SUPPORT OF ADDITIONAL STAFFING FOR THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION STAFF TO ADEQUATELY FILL POSITIONS OF JOB PLACEMENT SPECIALISTS

Whereas, job placement specialists require highly technical and specialized skills in assisting individuals in obtaining suitable employment; and

Whereas, the VA's vocational rehabilitation program is mandated by Public Law 96-466 to provide employment services to disabled veterans in training under Chapter 31, Title 38, U.S. Code; and

Whereas, the VA's vocational rehabilitation staff has suffered reductions so as to severely hinder their ability to provide required employment services: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support additional and adequate staffing for the vocational rehabilitation staff for the purposes of creating and filling positions of job placement specialists.

Resolution No. 274—Legislative

REQUIRE THE VA'S VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION STAFF TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES TO ANY SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERAN WHO REQUIRES SUCH SERVICES

Whereas, the American labor force is experiencing rapid change due to changing technology and skill obsolescence; and

Whereas, service-connected disabled veterans frequently require assistance in finding suitable employment; and

Whereas, the VA employs counseling psychologists and vocational rehabilitation specialists in the vocational rehabilitation program who are qualified by education and experience to provide employment services: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support legislation to require the VA vocational rehabilitation program to provide employment services to any service-connected disabled veteran who requests such services.

Resolution No. 275—Legislative

EXTENDING THE VETERANS READJUSTMENT APPOINTMENT (VRA) AUTHORITY

Whereas, the Veterans Readjustment Appointment (VRA) authority is a special hiring program in the federal government for veterans of the Vietnam Era; and

Whereas, the VRA program was established by Executive Order in 1970 and was subsequently codified in Section 2014, Title 5, U.S. Code, (Public Law 95-420); and

Whereas, through the use of this authority more than 200,000 Vietnam Era veterans have been hired in the federal Workforce; and

Whereas, the Congress has provided several VRA program extensions, the last such extension designating that the program shall terminate on December 31, 1989; and

Whereas, such termination would have a profound negative effect on the federal hiring of Vietnam Era veterans: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support legislation that would extend the Veterans Readjustment Appointment (VRA) authority until the year 2000.

RESOLUTION NO. 276—ADMINISTRATIVE

CALLING FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF PROGRAMS TO EMPLOY VETERANS IN THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Whereas, the Postal Reform Act provided that veterans shall continue to receive preference for postal jobs; and

Whereas, current law provides that all agencies of government, including the Postal Service, as well as federal contractors, take affirmative action to hire handicapped individuals, disabled veterans and Vietnam Era veterans: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 strongly urge the U.S. Postal Service to reinforce its programs to (1) provide preference to disabled veterans as provided by law; (2) utilize the special appointment authority to hire disabled veterans and severely handicapped individuals; and (3) use the DVAAP and VRA.

RESOLUTION NO. 277—ADMINISTRATIVE

EXPEDITE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO HAVE POTENTIAL ELIGIBILITY

Whereas, veterans experience delays in obtaining services because of application processing; and

Whereas, speed of services is important to the motivation of a disabled veteran in the pursuit of a vocational rehabilitation program; and

Whereas, the technology exists for the military services to interface data with the VA: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 urge the military services and the VA to create a system to alert the VA vocational rehabilitation staff of those service persons who have met a PEB or are pending medical retirement or severance so that the appropriate process for vocational rehabilitation services may be expedited.

RESOLUTION NO. 279—ADMINISTRATIVE

TO AMEND SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS TO INCLUDE DISABLED VETERANS

Whereas, Title 15, USC 631, (Public Law 95-107), Small Business Act and Small Business Investment Act of 1958, as amended, specifically lists certain disadvantaged minority groups that are eligible to participate in the programs of the Small Business Administration thereby allowing them to enter into contracts with the U.S. government without competitive bidding; and

Whereas, disabled veterans, as a group, should be added to this list to allow them to participate in the Small Business Administration programs: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 urge the SBA Administrator to include those veterans who have a service-connected disability rating of 30% or more to the list of minority groups eligible for SBA programs.

RESOLUTION No. 280—LEGISLATIVE

IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Whereas, following World War II, the Disabled American Veterans was instrumental in the establishment of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities; and

Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans has strongly supported the efforts of the President's Committee as it relates to employment of disabled veterans and handicapped individuals; and

Whereas, the efforts of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities have resulted in increased awareness and enhanced employment opportunities for disabled veterans primarily through its Committee on Disabled Veterans: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 support the continuation of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, as well as sufficient appropriations by Congress to carry out its function.

RESOLUTION No. 281—ADMINISTRATIVE

IN SUPPORT OF THE CENTRALIZED APPLICANT REFERRAL SERVICE

Whereas, the Centralized Applicant Referral Service (CARS) Program is designed to facilitate the recruitment and placement into federal civil service veterans rated 30% or more service-connected disabled, as well as Veterans Readjustment Appointment eligible veterans; and

Whereas, the CARS Centers use both of the above mentioned special hiring authorities specifically to appoint veterans non-competitively into the federal civil service; and

Whereas, the CARS Program is a cooperative venture between the State of California-Employment Development Department, U.S. Department of Labor-Veterans Employment and Training Service, U.S. Office of Personnel Management and the federal agencies; and

Whereas, the program is designed as a one-stop center for eligible veterans who are interested in federal employment—to wit, a veteran can go to one CARS Center to receive information and be referred to any opening listed by federal employers; and

Whereas, the CARS Program was established in California in the spring of 1983 and has proven to be a highly successful program for veterans in California: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 support a National Centralized Applicant Referral Service Program.

RESOLUTION No. 282—ADMINISTRATIVE

IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISABLED VETERANS IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Whereas, there exists a special noncompetitive appointing authority for disabled veterans rated 30% or more; and

Whereas, EEOC has a program to target certain disability groups for affirmative action: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 request that EEOC include all compensably service-connected disabled veterans as a targeted disability group; request OMB grant personnel ceiling exemptions to federal agencies who hire disabled veterans; and request OMB provide for adequate funds for the program.

RESOLUTION No. 291—LEGISLATIVE

TO PROVIDE THAT PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS BE CONSIDERED "COMPENSABLY" DISABLED VETERANS FOR PURPOSES OF VETERANS' PREFERENCE IN THE FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE

Whereas, a recipient of the Purple Heart may be rated "non-compensable" by the VA; and

Whereas, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has determined that "non-compensable" Purple Heart recipients are not covered for affirmative action purposes under Section 2014, Title 38, U.S Code; and

Whereas, compensably disabled veterans are ranked higher than non-compensably disabled veterans in the hiring process; and

Whereas, since the Purple Heart is only awarded for a combat wound sustained on the field of battle while engaging an enemy of the United States: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 support legislation authorizing that all Purple Heart recipients be considered "compensably disabled" for purposes of veterans' preference and affirmative action in the federal civil service.

RESOLUTION No. 294—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT A STRONG EMPLOYMENT SERVICE PROGRAM

Whereas, the Administration is attempting to "devolve" the employment service, giving the states the authority to develop and administer their own employment service system; and

Whereas, Congress has declared as its intent that there shall be an effective job and job training counseling service program for eligible veterans; and

Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans believes a strong centralized employment service system is necessary for all eligible veterans, especially disabled veterans, to receive Congressionally mandated employment services: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 reaffirms its vigorous support for a strong centralized employment service system.

RESOLUTION No. 295—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSING CHANGES TO THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM ADVERSELY AFFECTING SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS

Whereas, several proposals are currently under consideration by the Congress to modify the Federal Civil Service Retirement Program; and

Whereas, service-connected disabled veterans could be adversely affected by changes to the current retirement system unless grandfathered in: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 urge the Congress to reject any changes to the current federal retirement program for those serVice-connected disabled veterans who were federal employees prior to the enactment of any of the proposed changes.

RESOLUTION No. 296—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE THAT DISABLED VETERANS WHO RETIRE FROM MILITARY SERVICE FOR DISABILITY BE PERMITTED TO APPLY ALL MILITARY SERVICE TOWARD CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT

Whereas, current law permits a disabled military retiree whose disability was incurred as a result of combat with an enemy of the United States and/or the result of an instrumentality of war during a wartime period to apply their military service time toward federal civil service retirement, without waiving their military disability retirement pay; and

Whereas, a wartime disabled military retiree whose disability was not incurred as a result of combat or an instrumentality of war may apply their military service time toward federal civil service retirement, but must waive their military disability retirement pay: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 support legislation to permit any wartime disabled veteran who retires from military service for disability to apply credit for all military service for retirement benefits from the federal civil service system, upon the payment of seven percent of their military pay, without interest.

RESOLUTION No. 300—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS TO EX-SERVICEPERSONS

Whereas, current law prohibits ex-servicepersons from drawing unemployment compensation benefits (UCX) prior to the fifth week following the week the individual was discharged from military service; and

Whereas, this same law limits the total number of weeks an ex-serviceperson may receive unemployment compensation benefits to 13 weeks; and

Whereas, applicants for unemployment benefits, other than ex-servicepersons, may receive these benefits after only one week and continue to receive them for up to 26 weeks: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 support legislation to provide equitable unemployment compensation benefits to all ex-servicepersons on the same basis as is provided to all other eligible persons.

RESOLUTION No. 301—ADMINISTRATIVE

SUPPORTING FULL ENFORCEMENT OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION FOR ELIGIBLE VETERANS REQUIRED OF FEDERAL CONTRACTORS

Whereas, Section 2012 of Title 38, U.S. Code, requires that any private contractor or subcontractor who has a government contract for the procurement of personal property and non-personal services of $10,000 or more shall take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam Era; and

Whereas, this federal statute further requires contractors to list "immediately" with the local job service office all of its suitable employment openings: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 urge the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Employment and Training, U.S. Department of Labor to strictly enforce the provisions of Section 2012, Title 38, U.S. Code.

RESOLUTION No. 302—LEGISLATIVE

TRANSFER ENFORCEMENT FUNCTIONS FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION FROM OFCCP TO THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Whereas, Section 2012, Title 38, U.S. Code, requires that certain government contractors take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam Era; and

Whereas, the Secretary of Labor is mandated with the enforcement responsibility of this section of law; and

Whereas, the Secretary has delegated this enforcement authority to the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs; and

Whereas, there is within the Department of Labor an Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training who is the principal advisor to the Secretary on all matters relating to veterans; and

Whereas, it is the belief of the Disabled American Veterans that all veterans' employment and training functions should be the responsibility of this Assistant Secretary: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 support legislation to amend Section 2012, Title 38, U.S. Code, to transfer these enforcement functions for affirmative action, along with sufficient staff positions and budget, from OFCCP to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

Resolution No. 305—Administrative

URGE THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING TO HIRE MORE DISABLED VETERANS

Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans believes the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service office should be a model of hiring disabled veterans; and

Whereas, the Department of Labor has a poor record of hiring disabled veterans: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 strongly urge the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training give absolute preference to disabled veterans for any vacancy under his jurisdiction and that he utilize the special 30% non-competitive appointing authority whenever possible.

Resolution No. 306—Administrative

PROMOTION BY THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT OF THE SPECIAL HIRING AUTHORITY FOR 30% DISABLED VETERANS

Whereas, the 30% disabled veteran hiring program, codified in Title 5, U.S. Code, Section 3312, is designed to allow federal agencies to hire disabled veterans without competitive examinations, which may lead to career appointments; and

Whereas, this special authority is discretionary and not mandatory of federal agencies; and

Whereas, federal agencies have never fully embraced or utilized this program, thus denying many qualified disabled veterans the opportunity for federal employment: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 urge the Office of Personnel Management to fully support and promote the use of the special hiring authority for veterans who are 30% or more disabled.

Resolution No. 307—Legislative

ALLOW DISLOCATED AND UNDEREMPLOYED SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VETERANS JOB TRAINING ACT (VJTA) AND TO MAKE VJTA PERMANENT

Whereas, under the Veterans Job Training Act (VJTA) only unemployed veterans are eligible to participate, and the veteran must have been unemployed at least 10 of the past 15 weeks; and

Whereas, many service-connected disabled veterans who are dislocated workers or underemployed are ineligible for VJTA; and

Whereas, many veterans, especially disabled veterans, are unemployed and could successfully benefit from the continuation of VJTA as a permanent program: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 support a change in the VJTA eligibility criteria to allow service-connected disabled veterans who are either dislocated workers or underemployed (meeting the federal guidelines of economically disadvantaged) to participate in VJTA; and support legislation to make VJTA a permanent program.

Resolution No. 308—Administrative

AIDING HOMELESS WARTIME SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS

Whereas, the problem of the homeless wartime service-connected disabled veterans in the United States, especially in urban areas, is attracting greater attention and the recognition that these homeless disabled veterans constitute a national tragedy; and

Whereas, studies have shown that approximately 30% of the homeless are veterans, averaging under 40 years of age; and

Whereas, unemployment has contributed to the homeless condition of may disabled veterans; and

Whereas, the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training in the Department of Labor is responsible for delivery of employment services to disabled veterans: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support programs to aid homeless wartime service-connected disabled veterans, and to cooperate with and promote efforts by the Department of Labor, the Veterans Administration and any other agency with the resources to aid in the rehabilitation and employment of these disabled veterans.

RESOLUTION No. 309—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION TO ALL COMPENSABLY DISABLED VETERANS

Whereas, under current law service-connected disabled veterans with a compensable disability and an employment handicap are eligible for vocational rehabilitation; and

Whereas, the Congress has extended eligibility for vocational rehabilitation benefits to certain nonservice-connected disabled veterans: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support legislation to allow any compensably disabled veteran to participate in the vocational rehabilitation program.

RESOLUTION No. 312—LEGISLATIVE

REQUIRE THAT THE STAFF OF THE VETERANS' REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS PROGRAM BE VETERANS

Whereas, current law does not require that the Veterans' Reemployment Rights staff be eligible veterans but does require that State and Assistant State Directors for Veterans' Employment and Training be eligible veterans; and

Whereas, these positions were established to insure that veterans leaving military service and members of the National Guard and Reserve are properly restored to their previous employment: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support legislation that would require the Veterans' Reemployment Rights personnel be eligible veterans with preference given to service-connected disabled veterans.

RESOLUTION No. 313—ADMINISTRATIVE

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OFFICE OF FEDERAL CONTRACT COMPLIANCE PROGRAMS

Whereas, Congress has enacted legislation providing the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Program responsibility for enforcing the various laws governing the Affirmative Action Program for disabled and Vietnam Era veterans; and

Whereas, this Affirmative Action Program has not been effectively implemented and utilized: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 urge the Director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs to provide effective formal training to their staff and to the Regional and State Directors of Veterans' Employment in order to effectively implement this Affirmative Action Program.

RESOLUTION No. 362—LEGISLATIVE

TRANSFER VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICE TO THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Whereas, in the very near future the Veterans Administration will become a department and, thus, part of the Cabinet; and

Whereas, the Veterans' Employment and Training Service is mandated to provide certain employment and training services to our nation's veterans and is housed in the Department of Labor; and

Whereas, with the Veterans Administration attaining Cabinet status, it should be the department of the Executive Branch responsible for administering and overseeing all programs and benefits for veterans: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 seek a legislative change to transfer the Veterans' Employment and Training Service and its staff and budget to the Veterans Administration and establish an Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training position in the Veterans Administration.

RESOLUTION NO. 371—LEGISLATIVE

ALLOW CHAPTER 35 RECIPIENTS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE WORK STUDY PROGRAM

Whereas, certain spouses, widows and surviving children of certain service-connected veterans have eligibility for Chapter 35 benefits; and

Whereas, a work study program exists solely for veterans attending programs of education on a full time basis to supplement their education allowance, as well as provide work experience; and

Whereas, recipients of Chapter 35 benefits do not have eligibility to participate in this program: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas Texas, July 24–28, 1988 seek legislation that would allow Lhapter 35 recipients to participate in work study programs.

RESOLUTION NO. 372—LEGISLATIVE

ADEQUATE FUNDING AND PERMANENCY FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING AND SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS

Whereas, there are numerous veterans' employment and training programs that need adequate staffing and funding; and

Whereas, those programs include the Veterans' Employment and Training Service of the Department of Labor, LVER and DVOP, JTPA, VJTA, SBA and others: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 seek and support adequate funding and permanency for all veterans' employment and training programs.

RESOLUTION NO. 373—LEGISLATIVE

AMEND THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON HANDICAPPED EMPLOYEES

Whereas, Section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 established the Interagency Committee on Handicapped Employees (ICHE) who is to advise various federal agencies on employment policies relating to disabled people; and

Whereas, ICHE has operated behind closed doors and has conducted only two public meeting since 1973, both of which were hosted by the DAV; and

Whereas, recent attempts to obtain information including minutes of ICHE meetings have proved unsuccessful: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 seek and amendment that would make ICHE subject to the "Sunshine Act" and that its membership be expanded to include constituency groups, including disabled veteran organizations.

Commander MURPHY. At this time we will call the General Resolutions Committee, and the chairman Johnny Goodman.

Mr. JOHNNY GOODMAN. Thank you, Comrade Commander. The National Convention Committee on General Resolutions was called to order in its first business session July 25th, 1988, by the committee advisor Richard Schultz. The first order of business was the election of a permanent convention chairman.

John Goodman was nominated for chairman. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and John Goodman was elected as chairman.

Next order of business was the nomination and election of a secretary. Donald Sioss was nominated and elected as secretary of the committee.

The committee then proceeded to review 24 resolutions submitted to the committee. I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by this National Convention, and for the purpose of saving time I will read only the number and resolved portions of the resolutions.

Before beginning I might tell you that we had 21 district representatives, delegates who were all there, as well as their alternates, and one representative from the Blind chapter. So we had a full committee.

Resolution number 38. This has to do with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Disabled American Veterans in convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24 through the 28th, 1988, pursue full implementation and adherence to the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, and support legislation that insures physical access to all handicapped individuals, to all federally owned, renovated and leased buildings.

Resolution number 100, relative to the restoration of Memorial Day, May 30: Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24 through 28, 1988, urge that the Congress of the United States, and respectfully request the Congress of the United States rescind its action setting the last Monday of May as Memorial Day, and to establish May 30th as Memorial Day.

Resolution number 125, relative to the award of the Purple Heart to POWs: Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Disabled American Veterans, in National Convention assembled, Dallas, Texas, July 24th through through the 28th, 1988, request that the President of these United States amend Executive Order number 11016 to award the Purple Heart to POWs of all wars based upon the same criteria established for those POWs who served after 1962.

Resolution number 318. This is urging the President to provide closed caption or sign language interpreter for nationally televised appearances. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Disabled American Veterans, in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24 through 28, 1988, go on record and urge the President to provide closed caption or sign language interpreter at all future televised appearances.

Resolution number 319, the resolution in support of appropriate recognition of military service performed by women during the Vietnam War: Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Disabled American Veterans, in national convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24th through 28th, 1988, continue to support appropriate recognition of the military service performed by the women during the Vietnam War.

Resolution number 320, supporting the reciprocal handicapped parking agreement: Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Disabled American Veterans, in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988, that we urge and support the enactment of legislation currently pending in Congress to provide for a reciprocal handicapped parking agreement between the States and the District of Columbia.

Resolution number 355, a resolution to establish a memorial and museum to honor members of the Armed Forces in commemorative United States participation in World War II: Now, therefore, be it resolved that Disabled American Veterans, in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, in Dallas, Texas, support the establishment of a memorial and museum to honor members of the Armed Forces and commemorate the United States participation in World War II.

Resolution number 374, the resolution that I will read in its entirety with the Commander's permission. This is a resolution in appreciation to all of those who are responsible for the success of the 67th National Convention:

Whereas the success of the 67th DAV National Convention convened in Dallas, Texas, July the 24th through the 28th, 1988, depends on the total cooperation and unselfish devotion of the state, county and local officials, and whereas the success of the National Convention is also attributed to the department and local chapters, units of the DAV and the DAVA, particularly to Convention Chairman Oliver

Meadows, and whereas we wish to commend all the news media and the Loews Anatole Hotel for their encouragement and assistance at all of our convention activities,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Disabled American Veterans, in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24th-28th, 1988, expresses sincere appreciation to all groups and/or agencies whose dedication to our principles have made our convention a successful one.

And be it further resolved that we wish to extend to the citizens of Dallas, Texas, our deepest gratitude for their personal interest in our great organization.

And be it further resolved that we wish to extend our appreciation to all of the distinguished guests and to the members of the U.S. Congress who participated in our convention and support the ideals and principles of our great organization.

Be it further resolved that we extend our gratitude to the Convention Chairman Oliver Meadows and his entire committee for providing personalized assistance to our friends and delegates during our convention stay.

Also, with your permission, Commander, I would like to read resolution number 375 in toto.

Whereas, as a result of the leadership of Disabled American Veterans National Commander Gene A. Murphy, the DAV has continued to be the leading advocate for our nation's wartime and service-connected disabled veterans and their families; and, whereas, under Commander Murphy's leadership, the DAV was successful in warding off threats posed against our nation's system of veterans' benefits and services; and, whereas, under the stewardship of Commander Murphy, the DAV was successful in obtaining long-overdue legislation to extend benefits to our nation's veterans who were exposed to radiation during their military service;

And, whereas, Commander Murphy's personal involvement in the issue of Cabinet level status for the Veterans Administration resulted in Congressional passage of a measure to accomplish this long-time DAV goal; and, whereas, the untiring efforts of Commander Murphy greatly assisted in the expansion of the DAV's Transportation Network, assuring that needy veterans receive medical care; and, whereas, thanks to the strong support of Commander Murphy, the DAV membership ranks continued its growth, once again exceeding one million members;

And, whereas, Commander's Murphy's dedication to assuring that the DAV will remain the strongest veteran service organization led to great advancement in the DAV's life membership program;

And, whereas, Commander Murphy's deep concern for America's veterans, their dependents and survivors, required him to spend many long hours traveling throughout the country, bringing the DAV's message to the public;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Disabled American Veterans, in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28 of 1988, recognizes the contribution Gene Murphy has made toward the furthering the interest of America's service-connected disabled veterans and their families;

And be it further resolved that we extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to Commander Murphy's family for their unselfishly sharing of Commander Murphy during this year as National Commander. [Applause.]

Resolution number 376. This is a resolution in support of appropriate recognition to the military service performed by women. With your permission, I will read this one in its entirety.

Whereas, many national memorials have been erected depicting and honoring the military service of men during our nation's wars; and, whereas, our nation's history is replete with accounts of women serving America during war; and, whereas, historically our women veterans have not received the just recognition they deserve; and, whereas, legislation has been enacted to establish a memorial on Federal lands in the District of Columbia to honor women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States; and, whereas, the Disabled American Veterans has consistently supported equal benefits in recognition for women;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Disabled American Veterans, in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988, support efforts to provide appropriate recognition to all the women who served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

[Applause.]

Commander, that completes the report of the Convention General Resolutions Committee. And I move you, sir, that these resolutions be adopted and that the committee be dismissed with a vote of thanks.

Commander **Murphy**. Thank you, Johnny. On the motion, do I have a second? Mike 3.

Mr. **Curtis** D. **West**. Curtis West, chapter 22, Florida, seconds the motion.

Commander **Murphy**. Discussion. Mike 2.

Mr. **Joseph** V. **Racco**. Commander Murphy, Joe Racco from Ohio, 35. At this time I'd like to amend the motion here to adopt that, commending our advisory committee Rick Schultz, and also our Chairman Goodman, for their expertise and professional way they conducted the business of the Resolutions Committee. Thank you.

Commander **Murphy**. Thank you.

Mr. **Harold**. Harold, Boston,10, seconds that amendment.

Commander **Murphy**. On the amendment, discussion? On the amendment, all in favor say Aye. All against say Nay. So moved. On the motion as amended, discussion? All in favor say Aye. All against say Nay. So moved.

Thank you very much, Johnny. [Applause.]

[The above-mentioned resolutions follow:]

Resolution No. 038—Legislative

TO IMPROVE ENFORCEMENT OF THE ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS ACT OF 1968

Whereas, the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 intended to provide handicapped individuals physical access to federal buildings; and

Whereas, the record of adherence to the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 is poor, at best; and

Whereas, the intent of the law was to provide for ready access by all handicapped individuals to all general purpose federal buildings; and

Whereas, the federal government has not fully complied with, implemented, or enforced the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support full implementation and adherence to the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 and legislation that will ensure physical access for all handicapped individuals to all federally owned, renovated and leased buildings.

Resolution No. 100—Legislative

RESTORE MEMORIAL DAY TO MAY 30

Whereas, the Congress of the United States has enacted legislation designating the last Monday in May as Memorial Day; and

Whereas, this has detracted from the significance of the day set aside to honor the memory of those who sacrificed their lives in the military service of their country: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, By the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 that the Congress of the United States be respectfully requested to rescind its action setting the last Monday in May as Memorial Day and to reestablish May 30 as Memorial Day.

Resolution No. 125—Legislative

AUTHORIZE THE PURPLE HEART MEDAL TO FORMER POWS OF WORLD WAR I, WORLD WAR II, AND THE KOREAN WAR FOR INJURIES RECEIVED DURING CAPTIVITY

Whereas, Title 32, U.S. Code, effective April 25, 1962, authorizes the award of the Purple Heart to prisoners-of-war for wounds or injuries sustained as a result of beatings and other forms of physical torture while in captivity; and

Whereas, prior to April 25, 1962, the Purple Heart Medal for former prisoners-of-war was only awarded to those who were wounded or injured in action prior to or at the time of capture or in an attempted or successful escape; and

Whereas, former prisoners-of-war of World War I, World War II and the Korean War were physically abused, beaten, tortured and placed on forced work details, without concern for their health by enemy guards and hostile civilians; and

Whereas, many of these servicemen, while in captivity, suffered from physical abuse, malnutrition and exhaustion, as well as received wounds and injuries as a result of direct and indirect action at the hands of their captors: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 support the enactment of legislation to provide the same consideration to the award of the Purple Heart Medal to former prisoners-of-war held captive prior to April 25, 1962, as afforded those captured after that date.

Resolution No. 318—Administrative

URGING THE PRESIDENT TO PROVIDE CLOSED CAPTION OR SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER FOR NATIONALLY TELEVISED APPEARANCES

Whereas, the President gives the State of the Union message and other briefings to a national audience by way of television; and

Whereas, these messages and briefings are bypassing the deaf and individuals with hearing impairments: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 urge the President to provide closed caption or sign language interpreters at all future televised appearances.

Resolution No. 319—Legislative

IN SUPPORT OF APPROPRIATE RECOGNITION OF THE MILITARY SERVICE PERFORMED BY WOMEN DURING THE VIETNAM WAR

Whereas, impressive memorials have been erected in our nation's capitol honoring the military service of those individuals who served our nation during armed conflict; and

Whereas, these memorials generally recognize the military service and sacrifices of male veterans; and

Whereas, since the conclusion of the Vietnam War a memorial was established to honor and commemorate the service of veterans who served during this war; and

Whereas, a statue of three infantrymen has been placed at the site of the Vietnam Veterans National Memorial depicting the service of men during the Vietnam War; and

Whereas, legislation has passed the U.S. Senate and is currently pending in the House of Representatives to place a statue of a female Vietnam veteran at the site of the Vietnam Veterans National Memorial, Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans has consistently supported equal benefits and recognition for women veterans: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 continue to support appropriate recognition of the military service performed by women during the Vietnam War.

Resolution No. 320—Legislative

SUPPORTING A RECIPROCAL HANDICAPPED PARKING AGREEMENT

Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans, through its Handicapped Parking Awareness Campaign, is providing a valuable service to our nation's handicapped drivers; and

Whereas, current federal law encourages states and the District of Columbia to develop a uniform system of handicapped parking; and

Whereas, a number of states fail to recognize the symbols of other states for the identification of motor vehicles transporting handicapped individuals; and

Whereas, failure to recognize such symbols poses a threat to the safety of handicapped drivers: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support the enactment of legislation currently pending in Congress to provide for a reciprocal handicapped parking agreement between the states and the District of Columbia.

RESOLUTION No. 355—LEGISLATIVE

ESTABLISH A MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM TO HONOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND COMMEMORATE UNITED STATES' PARTICIPATION IN WORLD WAR II

Whereas, World War II profoundly affected the way we live today and the events and people who participated in that war have shaped our economic, political and cultural institutions; and

Whereas, over 16 million Americans served in our Armed Forces during World War II, with over 400,000 making the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom around the world; and

Whereas, there is no single national memorial recognizing the greatest war in which this nation has been involved in the 20th Century, where the choice between democracy and tyranny was crystal clear; and

Whereas, legislation has been introduced in the U.S. Congress—H.R. 3742—to establish a National Memorial and Museum, to be located in our nation's capitol, to pay tribute to those valiant men and women who served in the military service during World War II: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support the establishment of a memorial and museum to honor members of the Armed Forces and commemorate the United States' participation in World War II.

RESOLUTION No. 374—ADMINISTRATIVE

APPRECIATION TO ALL WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE 67TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Whereas, the success for the 67th DAV National Convention convened in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988, depends on the total cooperation and unselfish devotion of the state, county and local officials; and

Whereas, the success of this National Convention is also attributed to the Department and local Chapters and Units of the DAV and DAVA, particularly to Convention Chairman Oliver Meadows; and

Whereas, we wish to commend all the news media and the Loews Anatole Hotel for their encouragement and assistance at all of our Convention activities: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 expresses its sincere appreciation to all groups and/or agencies whose dedication to our principles has made our Convention a successful one; and

Be it further resolved, That we wish to extend to the citizens of Dallas, Texas, our deepest gratitude for their personal interest in our great organization; and

Be it further resolved, That we wish to extend our appreciation to all of the distinguished guests and to members of the U.S. Congress who participated in our Convention and support the ideals and principles of our great organization; and

Be it further resolved, That we extend our gratitude to the Convention Chairman, Oliver Meadows, and his entire Committee for providing personalized assistance to our friends and delegates during our Convention stay.

RESOLUTION No. 375—ADMINISTRATIVE

APPRECIATION TO NATIONAL COMMANDER GENE A. MURPHY

Whereas, as a result of the leadership of Disabled American Veterans' National Commander Gene A. Murphy, the DAV has continued to be the leading advocate for our nation's wartime service-connected disabled veterans and their families; and

Whereas, under Commander Murphy's leadership, the DAV was successful in warding off threats posed against our nation's system of veterans' benefits and services; and

Whereas, under the stewardship of Commander Murphy, the DAV was successful in obtaining long overdue legislation to extend benefits to our nation's veterans who were exposed to radiation during their military service; and

Whereas, Commander Murphy's personal involvement in the issue of Cabinet level status for the Veterans Administration resulted in Congressional passage of a measure to accomplish this long-time DAV goal; and

Whereas, the untiring efforts of Commander Murphy greatly assisted in the expansion of the DAV's Transportation Network, assuring that needy veterans receive medical care; and

Whereas, thanks to the strong support of Commander Murphy, the DAV membership ranks continued its growth, once again exceeding one million members; and

Whereas, Commander Murphy's dedication to assuring that the DAV will remain the strongest veterans' service organization led to great advancements in the DAV's life membership program; and

Whereas, Commander Murphy's deep concern for America's veterans, their dependents and survivors required him to spend many long hours travelling throughout the country bringing the DAV's message to the public: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 recognizes the contributions Gene Murphy has made toward furthering the interests of America's service-connected disabled veterans and their families; and

Be it further resolved, That we extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to Commander Murphy's family for their unselfish sharing of Commander Murphy during his year as National Commander.

RESOLUTION NO. 376—LEGISLATIVE

IN SUPPORT OF APPROPRIATE RECOGNITION OF THE MILITARY SERVICE PERFORMED BY WOMEN

Whereas, many national memorials have been erected depicting and honoring the military service of men during our nation's wars; and

Whereas, our nation's history is replete with accounts of women serving America during war; and

Whereas, historically our women veterans have not received the just recognition they deserve; and

Whereas, legislation has been enacted to establish a memorial on federal lands in the District of Columbia to honor women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States; and

Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans has consistently supported equal benefits and recognition for women: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled Americans Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 support efforts to provide appropriate recognition to all women who served in the Armed Forces of the United States.

RESOLUTION NO. 377—ADMINISTRATIVE

EXTEND APPRECIATION TO THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER, DALLAS, TEXAS, FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE 67TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Whereas, the success of the 67th National Convention convened in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 depended on the total cooperation and unselfish devotion of VA officials both in Washington, D.C. and Dallas, Texas; and

Whereas, many delegates to our National Convention were in need of medical treatment and required the assistance of prosthetic equipment to attend the National Convention; and

Whereas, in response to this, the health care officials from the VA Medical Center, Dallas, Texas, have staffed and maintained in the Convention hotel an excellent outpatient clinic and prosthetic service; and

Whereas, the medical care and prosthetic services rendered to the delegates to this 67th National Convention have been extended in a most compassionate manner and has been of the highest quality: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 express its sincere appreciation to the Veterans Administration Medical Center, Dallas, Texas, whose dedication to the care and treatment of the delegates to this 67th National Convention has made our Convention a successful one.

Commander MURPHY. The Veterans Rights Committee is ready to give their report. Harold Schultz.

Mr. HAROLD SCHULTZ. Thank you, Comrade Commander, delegates. Good afternoon.

The National Convention Committee on Veterans Rights was called to order for its first business session July 25th, 1988, by the committee advisor Charles Thompson.

The first order of business was the election of a convention committee chairman. Harold D. Schultz was nominated for chairman. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed, and myself, Harold Schultz, was elected chairman.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of secretary. Stephen Pollock was nominated and elected as secretary of the committee.

The committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted. And I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by this National Convention, and for the purposes of saving time, I will read only the number and the titles of those resolutions.

We had five resolutions in total, all of which were adopted.

Resolution number 82: To provide a total evaluation for one year following amputation of an extremity.

Resolution number 85: Provide a two-year convalescent period following cessation of therapeutic procedures for treatment of malignant growth.

Resolution number 101: To provide a temporary total evaluation following amputation of extremities.

Resolution number 169: Provide a compensable evaluation for service-connected tinnitus resulting from medication.

And resolution number 314: Seek to repeal DOD directive regarding unfitness for duty to terminations.

That completes my report, Comrade Commander, and I move for adoption of the report with a vote of thanks to the committee.

Commander MURPHY. Thank you, Harold. You heard the motion. Do I have a second?

Mr. HAROLD. Harold, Boston, 10, seconds that motion.

Commander MURPHY. Thank you, Harold. Discussion. On the motion, all in favor say Aye. All against say Nay. So moved. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

[The above-mentioned resolutions follow:]

RESOLUTION NO. 082—ADMINISTRATIVE

PROVIDE A ONE YEAR SCHEDULAR RATING AT 100% FOR AMPUTATION OF AN EXTREMITY

Whereas, the Veterans Administration Schedule for Rating Disabilities, 1945 looseleaf edition, provides for entitlement to a schedular 100% disability rating for a period of one year following implantation of a prosthesis in a shoulder, elbow, wrist, hip, knee and ankle; and

Whereas, this temporary evaluation is assigned to enable the veteran to effectively adapt to the prosthesis during this period of time; and

Whereas, currently, veterans who undergo extremity amputations must also adapt to the loss of a limb both physically and psychologically, to include fitting and subsequent utilization of a prosthesis, thereby necessitating numerous periods of outpatient treatment and therapy without benefit of the expanded 100% disability rating: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 seek a change in the VA Rating Schedule to provide for a schedular 100% evaluation for a one year period for any amputation that would also entitle a veteran to benefits for anatomical loss of an extremity.

RESOLUTION No. 085—ADMINISTRATIVE

COMPENSATION FOR SURGICAL REMOVAL OF MALIGNANT TUMORS

Whereas, the current VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities provides a two year 100% rating for service-connected malignant tumors of the respiratory and central nervous systems following the cessation of surgical, x-ray, chemotherapy or other therapeutic procedures; and

Whereas, a one year 100% evaluation is provided for malignant tumors of other body systems following the cessation of treatment; and

Whereas, malignant tumors of all body systems which require surgical removal and post-surgical treatment profoundly interfere with the patient's ability to return to the ordinary conditions of everyday life: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 seek an amendment to the VA Rating Schedule to provide a convalescent rating of 100% for two years following the cessation of surgical, x-ray, chemotherapy, or other therapeutic procedure for all malignant growths.

RESOLUTION No. 101—ADMINISTRATIVE

TO PROVIDE A TEMPORARY TOTAL RATING FOR THE PERIOD THAT AN AMPUTEE HAS A NEW PROSTHETIC DEVICE CONSTRUCTED

Whereas, it takes four to six weeks to manufacture a prosthetic device; and

Whereas, many employers require an amputee to use a prosthesis; and

Whereas, many veterans who do not have an artificial limb are incapacitated and unable to obtain gainful employment; and

Whereas, the 1945 Rating Schedule does not provide temporary total rating for veterans who are waiting for a new prosthesis: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 request an amendment to the 1945 Rating Schedule providing for a temporary total rating for the period involving the replacement of a prosthetic device.

RESOLUTION No. 169—ADMINISTRATIVE

COMPENSABLE EVALUATION OF TINNITUS SECONDARY TO MEDICATION

Whereas, the condition of tinnitus which is incurred during military service due to medication may only be service-connected at a noncompensable (0%) rate; and

Whereas, tinnitus incurred during service due to sound induced trauma, e.g., blast or explosion, or prolonged exposure to loud noise such as artillery or other weapon fire or roar of jet engines, is assigned a compensable evaluation; and

Whereas, tinnitus is equally disabling regardless of etiology: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 seek the assignment of compensable evaluation for tinnitus resulting from medications on the same basis as when tinnitus is the result of sound induced trauma.

RESOLUTION No. 314—ADMINISTRATIVE

OPPOSING A DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DIRECTIVE RELATIVE TO DISABILITY RETIREMENT

Whereas, Department of Defense Directive 1332.18, dated February 25, 1986, made substantial changes relative to eligibility for disability retirement of career military personnel; and

Whereas, career members' rights to retirement benefits will no longer be insured in the event "unfitness for duty" is determined prior to completion of 20 years of service; and

Whereas, as a result of this directive, all medical conditions are not considered when making a determination for disability retirement: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 oppose DOD Directive 1332.18, dated February 25, 1986, and support a policy that considers all physical and mental impairments when making a determination of entitlement to military disability retirement.

Commander MURPHY. The National Security and Americanism Committee is ready to give their report. Bert O'Neill.

Mr. WILBERT O'NEILL, Jr. Thank you, Comrade Commander. Commander and delegates, the National Convention Committee on National Security and Americanism Committee called to order for its first business session this morning, July 25th, by committee advisor Marion Shoemake.

The first order of business was the election and nomination of convention chairman Bert O'Neill, Jr., was nominated. And since no other nominations were forthcoming, Bert O'Neill, Jr., was elected chairman.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of a secretary. George Zoscsak, Z-O-S-C-S-A-K, was nominated and elected secretary of the committee.

The committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted. I will report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by this Convention.

Unless otherwise indicated in my report, I will read the number and result portions of the resolutions.

Resolution 316, supporting a strong national defense: Therefore, be it resolved that Disabled American Veterans, in convention assembled in Decatur, Illinois, June 10th through 12th, 1988, go on record urging Congress to provide adequate funds for the Department of Defense and the U.S. Coast Guard to insure a strong national defense.

Resolution 356, seeking the immediate release of any Americans who may still be held captive in Indochina, and a return of the remains of any Americans who may have died in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War.

Therefore, be it resolved that Disabled American Veterans, Silver Springs, Maryland, May 11th, 1988, support the President's pledge that the highest national priority to resolve the status of Americans still missing and unaccounted for in Indochina, and be it further resolved that we call upon the Indochinese governments to exert every possible effort to resolve this humanitarian issue and remove the primary bilateral obstacle to improve relations between our two peoples;

And be it further resolved that we urge the U.S. government to infer this issue does in fact remain one of the highest national priority, and to accelerate efforts in every way possible to obtain immediate release of any Americans who may still be held captive in Indochina the fullest possible accounting of those still missing, and reparations of those remains of those who died serving our country.

The above resolution was approved by the DAV Department of Maryland in convention assembled in Hagerstown, Maryland, June 16th through 19th, 1988.

Comrade Commander, this completes the reading of the resolutions, and I submit adoptions of the resolutions and discharge of the committee.

Commander **MURPHY**. Thank you very much, Bert. You have heard the motion. Do I have a second? Mike 3.

Mr. **SAUL GITLIN**. Saul Gitlin, chapter 13, Florida, seconds the motion.

Commander **MURPHY**. Discussion. All in favor say Aye. All against say Nay. So moved. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

[The above-mentioned resolutions follow:]

RESOLUTION No. 316—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORTING A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE

Whereas, the Soviet Union has an Army larger than that of the United States; and

Whereas, the Soviet Navy now has more ships, submarines, destroyers and cruisers than the U.S. Navy; and

Whereas, the nuclear stockpile of Soviet missiles and warheads is significantly larger than that of the United States; and

Whereas, the Soviets have condoned the widespread exportation of international terrorism by Third World Countries and radical groups; and

Whereas, these threats clearly jeopardize the security of United States citizens both at home and abroad; Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 go on record urging Congress to provide adequate funds for the Department of Defense and the U.S. Coast Guard to insure a strong national defense.

RESOLUTION No. 356—LEGISLATIVE

SEEKING THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ANY AMERICANS WHO MAY STILL BE HELD CAPTIVE IN INDOCHINA, AND THE RETURN OF THE REMAINS OF ANY AMERICANS WHO DIED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA DURING THE VIETNAM WAR

Whereas, there are nearly 2,400 Americans still missing or otherwise unaccounted for in Indochina and the families of those U.S. servicemen and civilians missing in Indochina still suffer untold grief and uncertainty due to the lack of an adequate accounting; and

Whereas, the U.S. government has pursued the resolution of the POW/MIA issue as a matter of highest national priority, has raised intelligence priorities, established high-level dialogue with the governments of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, has stated that decisive action would be taken to return any American proven to be held in captivity; and

Whereas, the President has appointed General John Vessey, Jr. as his personal emissary to Hanoi in an attempt to facilitate cooperation and resolution of this issue with the SRV government; and

Whereas, the government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic have agreed to cooperate with the United States government, with further joint excavations, Vietnam has pledged to focus seriously on discrepancy cases and those listed as having died in captivity in South Vietnam; and

Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans supports the U.S. government policy that the fullest possible accounting can only be achieved through government to government cooperation; and

Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans has maintained an enduring interest in the welfare of those Americans listed as missing or otherwise unaccounted for in Indochina; Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support the President's pledge of highest national priority to resolve the status of Americans still missing and unaccounted for in Indochina; and

Be it further resolved, That we call upon the Indochinese governments to honor their pledges to cooperate fully, to exert every possible effort to resolve this humanitarian issue and remove the primary bilateral obstacle to improve relations between our two peoples; and

Be it further resolved, That we urge the U.S. government to insure this issue does in fact remain one of highest national priority and to accelerate efforts in every reasonable way to obtain the immediate release of any Americans who may still be held captive in Indochina, the fullest possible accounting of those still missing and repatriation of the remains of those who died serving our nation.

Commander MURPHY. The Medical Services Committee is ready to give their report. Norman Hartnett.

Mr. NORMAN B. HARTNETT. Comrade Commander and delegates: The National Convention Committee on Medical Services was called to order for its first business session on July 25, 1988, by committee advisors Verne Nygaard and Dave Gorman.

The first order of business was election of a convention committee chairman. Norman Hartnett was nominated for chairman. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and Norman B. Hartnett was elected chairman.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of the secretary. Paul B. Benoit was nominated and elected as secretary of the committee.

The committee then proceeded to review the resolutions submitted. And I will now report to you the resolutions recommended for adoption by this National Convention.

For the purpose of saving time, I will read only the number and title of the resolutions.

Resolution number 86: To permit VA to fill prescriptions written by non-VA physician for a service-connected disability. [Applause.]

Resolution number 322: Continuation of Federal funding for state veterans' homes, recommended for adoption as amended.

Resolution number 109: Opposing the imposition of user fees for outpatient medical care at military facilities.

Resolution number 110: Opposing the contracting out of medical services currently being performed by military facilities, amended as to direct patient care.

Resolution number 212: Support adequate funding for the military medical care system.

Resolution number 370: Funding, staffing and maintenance of VA health care system or supporting adequate funding for the staffing and bed levels for the VA health care system.

Resolution number 198: Support adequate funding for the health care construction program.

Resolution 199: Expand where suitable PTSD treatment programs.

Resolution number 105: Provide adequate funding for the VA nursing home care program.

Resolution number 327: Support adequate funding for VA prosthetics.

Resolution number 107: Oppose the reduction of VA health care program entitlements while supporting quality health care.

Resolution number 323: Oppose any attempt to include the VA hospital system in any national health insurance plan.

Resolution number 326: Require the Board of Veterans Appeals to assume jurisdiction of appeals on the question of fee basis entitlement.

Resolution number 328: Supporting adequate numbers of handicapped parking spaces at all VA medical facilities.

Resolution number 336: Oppose legislation to establish a Medicare demonstration project for veterans.

Resolution number 340: Provide certain non-medical support services in the home-health services program.

Resolution number 363: Extend VA medical and dental benefits to Congressional Medal of Honor recipients.

Resolution number 364: Amend Section 603, Title 38, U.S. Code, regarding VA contract hospitalization.

Resolution number 365: Provide for reimbursement of certain medical expenses for former prisoners of war.

Resolution number 366: Seeking adequate funding for VA medical and prosthetic research programs.

Resolution number 367: Provide adequate funding for the automation of information systems at VA medical facilities.

Resolution number 368: Supporting the conversion of unused hospital beds to nursing home care beds.

And, lastly, resolution number 369: Opposing the reduction of the VA health care system.

Comrade Commander and delegates, this completes the report of the Medical Services National Convention Committee. And I move the adoption of these resolutions and the discharge of the committee with the thanks of the National Convention. Thank you.

Commander MURPHY. Thank you, Gabby. Do I have a second to that motion? Mike 3.

Mr. STEPHAN J. VARGA. Chapter 9, Houston, Texas, Stephan Varga, motion that we approve it.

Commander MURPHY. You second the motion?

Mr. VARGA. I second the motion.

Mr. HAROLD. Could I talk to the chairman and ask him a question? Joe Harold, Boston, 10. Norman, are you a registered delegate to this convention?

Mr. HARTNETT. I am registered from Chapter 11 in Nevada.

Mr. HAROLD. Do you have your credentials on you?

Mr. HARTNETT. Yes, I do.

Mr. HAROLD. I don't see them.

Mr. HARTNETT. No. They are upstairs.

Mr. HAROLD. You should have your credentials, because, after all, you are a former National Executive director and you should show us the way. And I like your uniform. Thank you. [Laughter.]

Mr. HARTNETT. I don't believe that there is any particular uniform, Joe, but I will bring my credentials. And thank you for the admonition.

Commander MURPHY. Thank you very much, Gabby, again. Any other discussion on the motion? All in favor say Aye. All against say Nay. So moved. [Applause.]

[The above-mentioned resolutions follow:]

RESOLUTION NO. 086—ADMINISTRATIVE

TO LIBERALIZE THE DISPENSING OF MEDICATIONS BY VA PHARMACIES

Whereas, the General Counsel of the Veterans Administration has held that veterans who receive treatment from a private physician for their service-connected disabilities or for other disabilities if they are rated 50% or more disabled can no longer have the prescriptions written by their private physician filled by a VA pharmacy; and

Whereas, the VA pharmacies have, as a matter of policy, provided medication to service-connected disabled veterans who receive treatment for their disabilities from a private physician; and

Whereas, the General Counsel's opinion will place an unnecessary burden upon the outpatient clinics at VA facilities as the influx of eligible service-connected disabled veterans will further add to the over-crowding that currently exists in most VA medical facilities simply to fill prescriptions; and

Whereas, veterans who choose to be treated for their disabilities by a private physician save the VA the financial cost of providing that care: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 support the enactment of legislation to authorize the VA to fill the prescriptions of service-connected disabled veterans who are under the care and treatment of private physicians for their service-connected disabilities.

RESOLUTION NO. 105—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORTING ADEQUATE VA BED LEVELS AND FACILITIES FOR LONG TERM CARE

Whereas, in 1980, three million veterans were 65 years of age or older; by 1990, 7.2 million veterans will be in this age group; and by the year 2000, this number will reach nine million veterans, constituting 37% of the total veteran population; and

Whereas, due to the rapidly advancing age of veterans, the chronic nature of their disabilities and the intensity of care required, there exists a critical shortage of long term care beds in VA medical facilities capable of providing needed nursing home care to eligible disabled veterans; and

Whereas, there exists an urgent need for the creation of additional VA nursing homes to meet the needs of disabled veterans requiring long term care: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support VA operating and maintaining an adequate and realistic number of nursing home care beds in VA facilities to meet the long term care needs of this nation's disabled veterans.

RESOLUTION NO. 107—ADMINISTRATIVE

OPPOSING ANY ATTEMPT TO RESTRICT ELIGIBILITY OR REDUCE VA HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Whereas, Title 38, U.S. Code, mandates that the Veterans Administration is to be the primary provider of health care services to eligible disabled veterans; and

Whereas, it has been the long-standing intent of Congress that the VA provide medical care to disabled veterans; and

Whereas, any attempt by the Veterans Administration or other sources to restrict eligibility or reduce VA health care services would ultimately prove detrimental to the health and welfare of this nation's disabled veterans: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 oppose any and all attempts to restrict eligibility criteria or reduce VA health care services to service-connected disabled veterans.

RESOLUTION NO. 109—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSING THE IMPOSITION OF USER FEES FOR OUTPATIENT MEDICAL CARE AT MILITARY MEDICAL FACILITIES

Whereas, military retirees have earned the right, by virtue of service to this nation, to utilize military medical facilities to meet their medioal care needs and those of their dependents: and

Whereas, this earned benefit has been established by the Congress through the enactment of legislation entitling military retirees and their dependents to utilize military medical facilities to meet their medical care needs; and

Whereas, the charging of a user's fee would adversely impact upon military retirees' financial and medical well-being: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 oppose any proposal that will require a military retiree or their dependents to be charged a user's fee in order to obtain outpatient medical services at military medical facilities.

RESOLUTION NO. 110—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSING THE CONTRACTING OUT OF MEDICAL SERVICES CURRENTLY PERFORMED BY MILITARY FACILITIES

Whereas, the Department of Defense has historically been charged with the responsibility of being the primary medical care provider for active duty military personnel; and

Whereas, military medical facilities have proven to represent an excellent environment for providing specialized quality care to disabled servicemen due to combat associated disabilities; and

Whereas, the need to preserve the military medical care system is of vital importance for readiness in the event of future armed conflicts or national emergencies; and

Whereas, by virtue of the unique nature of certain diseases and injuries sustained by active duty military personnel private physicians would be at a distinct disadvantage in providing adequate and specialized treatment in certain instances: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 oppose any dilution of the military medical care system by contracting out any activity which is determined to involve or is incident to direct patient care.

RESOLUTION NO. 198—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORT ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR VA CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Whereas, Veterans Administration medical care facilities are expected to provide quality health care services to disabled veterans; and

Whereas, more than 53% of all VA medical facilities are now over 30 years old; and

Whereas, there exists a continuing need for replacement, modernization, renovation, clinical and safety improvements at many VA facilities; and

Whereas, the ability to deliver quality health care services to this nation's disabled veterans entails a commitment to modern, safe and efficient medical facilities: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 seek the enactment of adequate appropriations for the VA construction program.

RESOLUTION NO. 199—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORTING ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THE TREATMENT OF POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

Whereas, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a commonly recognized residual of the combat experience; and

Whereas, the VA has been charged with the task of conducting research into the cause and diagnosis of PTSD via the establishment of a National Center on PTSD; and

Whereas, the VA should be considered a pioneer in this field by virtue of their expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of PTSD; and

Whereas, current estimates of the number of veterans afflicted with PTSD are significantly greater than current VA treatment capabilities: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 support adequate funding for PTSD treatment units at an appropriate number of VA medical centers.

RESOLUTION NO. 212—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORTING ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THE MILITARY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Whereas, underfunding of the military health care system jeopardizes the ability to provide timely and quality medical care to individuals serving on active duty, as well as military retirees and their dependents; and

Whereas, such inadequate funding has a detrimental effect on the ability of the Department of Defense to recruit and retain skilled health care personnel; and

Whereas, in time of war or national emergency it becomes crucial to have an adequate number of trained physicians and other vital medical care providers to protect our national interest: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support adequate funding for the military health care system.

RESOLUTION NO. 322—LEGISLATIVE

CONTINUATION OF GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE HOME FACILITIES

Whereas, the Veterans Administration projects the number of veterans over age 65 will increase dramatically, peaking at 8.9 million by the year 1999; and

Whereas, there will be an ever-increasing number of older veterans seeking the assistance offered by State Veterans Homes due to advancing age and associated medical problems; and

Whereas, the 55 State Veterans Homes in 36 states and the District of Columbia now provide 18,646 beds for the care and treatment of elderly and disabled veterans; and

Whereas, most planning for modernization and/or expansion is predicated upon the availability of grant funds through the Veterans Administration: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support the continuation of adequate funding for the construction, expansion, remodeling, or acquisition of State Veterans Home facilities under the VA's grant program.

RESOLUTION NO. 323—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSING THE INCLUSION OF THE VA HOSPITAL SYSTEM IN ANY NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN

Whereas, a proposal to make the Veterans Administration hospital system part of a National Health Insurance Plan has been suggested; and

Whereas, it is the policy of the Disabled American Veterans to preserve high quality VA hospital and medical care for veterans with disabilities incurred in or aggravated by service in America's Armed Forces; and

Whereas, the inclusion of the VA hospital system in a National Health Insurance Plan would destroy the VA's special medical care programs, specifically designed for the treatment of veterans whose disabilities are incident to military service: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 vigorously oppose any National Health Insurance Plan which proposes to incorporate the VA hospital system.

RESOLUTION NO. 326—ADMINISTRATIVE

TO REQUIRE THE BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS TO ASSUME JURISDICTION OF APPEALS REGARDING THE QUESTION OF A VETERAN'S ENTITLEMENT TO FEE-BASIS MEDICAL CARE

Whereas, many service-connected disabled veterans require the regular services of health care professionals for the effective treatment of their disabilities; and

Whereas, in many instances these veterans reside in locations geographically distant and/or inaccessible to a VA medical facility; and

Whereas, travel to a VA medical facility for necessary treatment may prove detrimental to the veteran's health and well-being; and

Whereas, the Veterans Administration Board of Veterans Appeals serves as the final administrative recourse in disputed claims regarding law and benefits administered by the Agency; and

Whereas, the fee-basis program is administered as a discretionary benefit: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 petition the Board of Veterans Appeals to assume jurisdiction of and render a formal appellate decision on veterans claims for fee-basis medical services.

RESOLUTION No. 327—LEGISLATIVE

IN SUPPORT OF ADEQUATE FUNDING AND STAFFING OF THE VA PROSTHETIC AND SENSORY AIDS SERVICE

Whereas, in a study completed by the VA Office of Program Evaluation, VA's Office of Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service was found to be lacking in personnel and, consequently, failed to adequately manage the programs under its jurisdiction; and

Whereas, considering the responsibilities of the VA Office of Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service, it is felt that there should be sufficient personnel available to carry out its mandate; and

Whereas, the DAV believes that sufficient funding is not available for the training of personnel administering the programs of the Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 seek appropriation of sufficient funds to provide adequate staffing and training of personnel in the VA's Office of Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service.

RESOLUTION No. 328—ADMINISTRATIVE

SUPPORTING ADEQUATE HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES AT ALL VA MEDICAL CARE FACILITIES

Whereas, most VA medical care facilities fail to provide an adequate number of handicapped parking spaces for wheelchair, amputee and other mobility or physically impaired veterans seeking medical care at such facilities; and

Whereas, by providing an adequate number of handicapped parking spaces, disabled veterans will be assured access to VA medical care facilities and, thus, receive medical service to which they are legally entitled; and

Whereas, handicapped parking privileges are sometimes abused by individuals who are not afflicted with disabilities that preclude normal ambulation: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 urge the VA to provide an adequate number of handicapped parking spaces for disabled veterans at all VA medical care facilities and strictly enforce regulations governing the use of such parking spaces.

RESOLUTION No. 336—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSING LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH A MEDICARE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR VETERANS

Whereas, Title 38, U.S. Code, mandates that the Veterans Administration is to be the primary provider of health care services to eligible disabled veterans; and

Whereas, any effort by the Veterans Administration, or other sources, to curtail or dissuade eligible veterans from utilizing Veterans Administration health care facilities may prove detrimental to veterans and the Agency; and

Whereas, current law mandates that service-connected disabled veterans shall be furnished certain health care services from the Veterans Administration; and

Whereas, the creation of a Medicare demonstration project for veterans may result in the mainstreaming of veterans health care services: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 oppose any attempt or legislation to establish a Medicare demonstration project for veterans.

RESOLUTION No. 340—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE CERTAIN NONMEDICAL SUPPORT SERVICES IN THE HOME HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM

Whereas, Congress established the Home Health Services Program for the effective and economical continuation of treatment for veterans as an alternative to extended hospitalization or long-term institutionalization; and

Whereas, the provision of supportive medical services under this program has resulted in a uniformly high level of care being furnished to eligible veterans in their homes; and

Whereas, the cost effectiveness of this program has been amply documented; and

Whereas, to effectively accommodate the "whole patient concept," flexibility is required to authorize furnishing of certain nonmedical support functions, such as domestic, custodial or homemaker services: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support the enactment of legislation that would authorize the Veterans Administration to provide appropriate nonmedical support services to veterans entitled to outpatient or ambulatory care under the provisions of Section 612, Title 38, U.S. Code.

RESOLUTION No. 363—LEGISLATIVE

EXTEND VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL AND DENTAL BENEFITS TO MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Whereas, this nation owes a great debt of gratitude to those individuals who have displayed unselfish heroism in the defense of freedom; and

Whereas, recipients of the nation's highest award for heroism and valor on the battlefield are not accorded special medical benefits; and

Whereas, many of the living Medal of Honor recipients are not entitled to military retirement benefits, including medical benefits: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 seek the enactment of legislation which would extend Veterans Administration medical and dental benefits to all Medal of Honor recipients.

RESOLUTION No. 364—LEGISLATIVE

TO AMEND SECTION 603, TITLE 38, U.S. CODE, REGARDING VA CONTRACT HOSPITALIZATION

Whereas, Public Law 99-272, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, statutorily mandates the Veterans Administration to furnish service-connected disabled veterans with needed inpatient health care services; and

Whereas, needed health care services are required to be provided in a Veterans Administration Medical Center, a Department of Defense Medical facility or, in a non-federal, private hospital under VA contract, if the veteran is in need of immediate care; and

Whereas, Section 603, Title 38, U.S. Code, is limited and restrictive concerning which veterans may be authorized contract hospital care; and

Whereas, this provision places service-connected disabled veterans in jeopardy of being denied required medical services: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support legislation to amend Section 603, Title 38, U.S. Code, to permit the Veterans Administration to furnish contract hospital care to those service-connected disabled veterans as identified in Section 610(a)(1) when required.

RESOLUTION No. 365—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN MEDICAL EXPENSES FOR FORMER PRISONERS-OF-WAR

Whereas, current law extends eligibility to former prisoners-of-war for hospital care, as well as outpatient treatment for any disability; and

Whereas, former prisoners-of-war have endured numerous hardships and dietary deficiencies as a result of their internment; and

Whereas, former prisoners-of-war may require medical treatment of an emergent nature to a degree that any delay could be hazardous to their health or life; and

Whereas, a Veterans Administration health care facility may not be feasibly available to provide the necessary emergency medical care: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support the enactment of legislation to amend Section 628(a)(2), Title 38, U.S. Code, providing for the consideration of reimbursement of certain medical expenses incurred by former prisoners-of-war.

RESOLUTION No. 366—LEGISLATIVE

SEEKING ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR VA MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Whereas, Veterans Administration medical care facilities are expected to provide the highest quality health care services to disabled veterans; and

Whereas, to maintain the expertise to provide the highest quality medical care to veterans there is a constant need for medical and prosthetic research; and

Whereas, VA medical and prosthetic research programs have suffered from a lack of adequate funding and failure by some to recognize the essential role of research to assure proper delivery of health care to veterans: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 seek the enactment of legislation appropriating sufficient funding for medical and prosthetic research programs within the Veterans Administration.

RESOLUTION No. 367—LEGISLATIVE

PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THE AUTOMATION OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS AT VA MEDICAL FACILITIES

Whereas, the Veterans Administration's Department of Medicine and Surgery has long been involved in attempting to implement a comprehensive automated information system to lend computer support to VA medical centers; and

Whereas, these efforts were intensified during 1982 with the goal of providing timely and cost-effective automated data processing technology and resources to support clinical and administrative functions at the VA medical center level, and management functions at all levels; and

Whereas, the realization of such a system will ultimately result in enhanced patient care for disabled veterans: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 seek the enactment of legislation appropriating adequate funding to provide for procurement and sufficient staffing of an effective automated information system in all VA medical facilities.

RESOLUTION No. 368—ADMINISTRATIVE

SUPPORTING THE CONVERSION OF UNUSED HOSPITAL BEDS TO NURSING HOME CARE BEDS

Whereas, in 1985 the VA operated approximately 10,000 fewer hospital beds than it did in 1980; and

Whereas, it appears the VA has developed a policy of systematically closing acute care hospital beds without a meaningful corresponding conversion of beds for the purpose of long-term care; and

Whereas, absolute closure of acute care beds is simply a waste of valuable and available resources; and

Whereas, conversion of acute care beds to nursing home care beds is a far less costly procedure than new nursing home construction: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 strongly endorse the concept of converting unneeded or unused acute care hospital beds into long-term care beds whenever possible and feasible.

RESOLUTION No. 369—ADMINISTRATIVE

OPPOSING THE REDUCTION OF THE VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Whereas, proposals have been made to reduce the Veterans Administration's health care system by various commissions and study groups such as Heritage Foundation and Grace Commission, by transferring the health care of our veterans to the private sector; and

Whereas, it is the policy of the Disabled American Veterans to preserve high quality VA hospital and medical care for veterans with disabilities incurred in or aggravated by service in our nation's Armed Forces; and

Whereas, the reduction of the VA health care system will destroy the VA's ability to provide special medical care programs specifically designed for the treatment of veterans who have service-connected disabilities: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 vigorously oppose any plan which would dissolve any part of the VA health care system.

RESOLUTION No. 370—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORTING ADEQUATE FUNDING, STAFFING AND BED LEVELS FOR THE VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Whereas, underfunding of the VA medical care program continues to hamper the VA's ability to provide timely, complete and quality health care to veterans; and

Whereas, the Office of Management and Budget continues to seek reductions in the number of VA health care personnel; and

Whereas, the results of fewer personnel equates to a reduced number of available and operating hospital beds for the treatment of eligible veterans; and

Whereas, adequate funds should be provided to maintain and improve medical care for all of America's wartime disabled veterans in order to ensure that they will continue to receive medical care second to none: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 seek the enactment of adequate appropriations for the funding of the VA medical care program and vigorously oppose any further reduction in VA health care personnel or operating beds.

Commander MURPHY. The Finance and Dues Committee is ready to give their report. William Wiggins, please.

Mr. WILLIAM WIGGINS. Thank you, Commander. Comrade Commander, national officers, distinguished guests and fellow delegates: The National Committee on Finance and Dues was called to order for its first business session on Monday, July 25th, 1988, by committee advisors Frank Fantanza and Charles Cryder.

The first order of business was the election of a convention committee chairman. Bill Wiggins was nominated for chairman. There being no further nominations, the nominations closed, and Bill Wiggins was elected chairman.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of a secretary. George LePorte from New York was nominated and elected secretary of the committee.

There were no resolutions brought before the committee for its consideration this year.

The committee reviewed the 1987 audit and financial report with comptroller Charles Cryder. The comptroller also reviewed the 1989 proposed budget which was referred to the Convention Finance and Dues Committee by the National Finance Committee with our recommendation for adoption.

The 1989 proposed budget was approved by unanimous vote of the committee and adopted.

The committee expressed thanks to Charles Cryder and National Finance Committee Chairman Frank Fantanza for their assistance in performing the work of this important committee.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Comrade Commander, at this time, this completes the report of the Convention Finance Committee. And I hereby move for the adoption of this report and that the committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

Mr. GEORGE T. NICKOLAS. Mr. Chairman, mike 2.

Commander MURPHY. You have heard the motion. Mike 2.

Mr. NICKOLAS. George Nickolas, Scott County, chapter 2, Iowa, seconds the motion.

Commander MURPHY. Discussion. All in favor say Aye. All against say Nay. So moved. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr. WIGGINS. Thank you, Commander. [Applause.]

Commander MURPHY. Membership and Volunteer Service Committee is ready to give their report. I call on Jim Friesma.

Mr. JAMES FRIESMA. Comrade Commander, national officers, distinguished guests and fellow delegates: The National Convention Committee on Membership and Volunteer Services was called to order on Monday, July 25th, 1988. The first order of business was the election of a convention committee chairman. Jim Friesma of District 10, Michigan, was nominated and elected chairman.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of a secretary. Nash Ramirez of district 16, California, was nominated and elected secretary of the committee.

There were no resolutions brought before the Membership and Volunteer Services Committee. However, general discussion was held.

The committee recommended that the National Membership Department send out a memo explaining the interpretation of and giving examples of eligibility, as per Section 11.11, Eligibility: Time of War, paragraph 3 of the National Bylaws: The requirement "During the time of war" shall also be met if it is determined that the applicant's wound, injury or disability was incurred at any time while engaged in extra-hazardous service under conditions simulating war.

Past National Commander Paul Thompson suggested that more VA medical centers be encouraged to send in more nominations for the George Seal Awards.

Bruce Nitsche thanked the committee members for their participation. Having no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Convention Committee on Membership and Volunteer Services. And I hereby move for the adoption of this report, and that the committee be discharged with the thanks of the National Convention.

Commander MURPHY. Thank you Jim. Mike 3.

Mr. TOM SIMMS. Tom Simms, delegate, chapter 72, Florida, seconds that motion.

Commander MURPHY. Discussion. All in favor say Aye. All against say Nay. So moved. Thank you. [Applause.]

The Disabled American Veterans received a letter from U.S. Representative Gerald B. Solomon, who is the 24th District Representative to Congress, and he's from New York. And I'd like to read this.

> Dear Gene: Thank you for your invitation to address the Disabled American Veterans convention in Dallas, Texas. Unfortunatelv, I will be unable to attend but would appreciate this letter being read at the convention.
>
> Clearly 1988 is a bellwether year for American veterans. 1988 is the year our nation's veterans will take their rightful place in the President's Cabinet.

The importance of this event cannot be overstated. The competition for the veterans' fair share of the budget will become far more intense in the years ahead. Elevating the veterans' chief executive officer will insure that our nation's veterans have a choice in the Cabinet to argue for their fair share. Together we have overcome several obstacles in elevating the Veterans Administration to Cabinet level.

Many deserve credit for this success. Senator Strom Thurmond, the sponsor of Senate 533, deserves great credit for guiding this bill through the United States Senate. Congressman Brooks, Chairman of the Government Operations, deserves credit for taking up and reporting this bill from his committee. Senator Glenn, Chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee, also deserves our gratitude for having the courage to separate the disreview from the Cabinet-level bill. And, of course, our great chairman, Sonny Montgomery, must be recognized for his vigorous support right from the beginning, and for pulling the bill out of the fire on several occasions.

However, it was organizations such as the Disabled American Veterans which merits a lion's share of credit for this tremendous accomplishment. Because of the fine work and leadership of the members of the DAV, our nation's veterans will soon take their rightful place in the President's Cabinet.

[Applause.]

Commander MURPHY. Ladies and gentlemen, please rise and I will ask Reverend Carl Bergstrom——

Mr. JOHN H. TOOMBS. Comrade Commander, before you do, please.

Commander MURPHY. What mike?

Mr. TOOMBS. Mike 3. I would like to say something. I have noticed something that has been going on up there on the podium, and dismounting it.

My name is John H. Toombs, Texas, 102. I have seen nine people come off of that podium and go up on that podium there without saluting the flag of the United States, which I fought under. I would like that properly respected, please.

Commander MURPHY. Thank you very much. Reverend Bergstrom.

Chaplain BERGSTROM. Before I give the final prayer, it is always a shock to know that someone close to us has passed away suddenly. Death is always something that happens to somebody else far away. And it always comes close when we are identified with someone.

And it's with regret and sorrow that I announce the death of Retired National Service Officer James M. Howard of Louisville, Kentucky, a veteran of World War II. He began his work with the DAV in 1945, and he retired in December 1975 after 30 years of service. He's survived by his widow. And I would ask for a moment of silence for Jim.

[There was a moment of silence.]

May his soul and the souls of all the departed rest in peace.

Eternal Father, we come together, glad to do your will, looking to one another for support in those things that we must do.

And it is with grief that we must acknowledge when one of our members passes away. But we are assured that whether here or in the world to come, we are all in your hands. And for this we give thanks.

Guard us and keep us as we depart from this place. Bring us safely back again where we will continue to do the job that is before us. All of which we do in your name. Amen.

Commander MURPHY. The convention stands in recess until nine o'clock tomorrow morning. Thank you.

[Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 2:50 o'clock p.m., July 25, 1988.]

TUESDAY MORNING BUSINESS SESSION

July 26, 1988

[The Tuesday Morning Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans convened in the Chantilly Ballroom, Loews Anatole Hotel, Dallas, Texas, and was called to order at 9:00 o'clock a.m. by National Commander Gene A. Murphy.]

Commander **MURPHY**. The Convention will please come to order. Will you please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

[Pledge of Allegiance.]

Commander **MURPHY**. We will be led in prayer by our National Chaplain, Reverend Carl Bergstrom.

Chaplain **BERGSTROM**. Let us pray. Eternal Lord, we give You thanks once again as we come to the beginning of a new work day. May we continue to do those things that find favor in Your sight.

We also pray for those who are absent from us, family members, loved ones, those who are missing in action and still unaccounted for.

We also pray for those who this day are working for the benefit of hospitalized and disabled veterans across our nation.

Bless them. Bless those who work and those who wait. Let them always be in our minds and in our prayers. Amen.

Commander **MURPHY**. In order for a delegate to be heard at this convention, he must be recognized by the Chair. Only those delegates at a microphone will be recognized. Upon being so recognized, the delegate must state his name, chapter number and the state he represents.

At this time I'd like to call upon our Credentials Committee for a partial report.

Mr. **LARRY A. POLZIN**. The Credentials Committee met this morning in the Rosetta Room. Roll call showed 1,504 delegates and 78 alternates present.

This is a partial report for information purposes only and reflects the registration at the close of registration at 4:00 p.m., July 25th, 1988.

At the present time we have 594 chapters, 45 departments, 26 national officers, 12 past national commanders, for a total of 1,504 delegates and 78 alternates, for a total vote of 9,490.

This completes a partial report of the Credentials Committee, Commander.

Commander **MURPHY**. Thank you. At this time I'd like to call on Joe Harold, Chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, for their final report.

Excuse me. At this time we would like to introduce the Legislative Committee Chairman Chester Clute from Michigan.

Mr. **CHESTER CLUTE**. Comrade Commander, delegates and guests: My name is Chester Clute, and I was elected chairman of the Legislative Committee. I will read this as it's supposed to be. I usually say ad-lib here and there and do it wrong, so I'll do it right this time.

Comrade Commander and delegates: The National Convention Committee on Legislation was called to order for its first business session on July 25, 1988, by Committee Advisor Rick Heilman and Tommy Tomlinson of district 10.

The first order of business was the election of Convention Committee chairman. Chester D. Clute was nominated for chairman. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and Chester Clute was elected chairman.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of the secretary. Dick Wannamaker was nominated and elected as secretary of the committee. This is Mr. Wannamaker over here. That's the reason he's close to me, in case I make a mistake.

The committee considered 135 resolutions which covered the full range of subjects in accordance with the statement of policy adopted at the first order of business yesterday.

For the purpose of brevity, I will only read the resolution number and its goal according to category.

Mr. Commander, with your permission, and if there are no objections, I will just merely give a descriptive caption to each resolution.

Now these resolutions in the past, we have started with the lowest one, or the number two or whatever it was, and go on through to the highest. These are broken down, however, into categories. So our first category will be compensation.

Resolution number 95. Realistic compensation increase.

Resolution number 176. 15-year protection for service-connected disability evaluations.

Resolution 262. Special protection for ratings of 100 percent service-connected veterans after 10 years.

Resolution number 77. Concurrent receipt of VA disability compensation and military longevity retirement pay.

Resolution number 106. To exempt temporary total, under paragraph 30, benefits from effective date change of public law 97.253 pertaining to surgery and convalescence.

Resolution number 252. Opposing the indexing of VA compensation benefits.

Resolution number 248. In support of December 1st effective date for future compensation increases.

Resolution number 246. Opposing the taxation of VA disability compensation benefits.

Resolution number 232. Opposing a freeze in the rates of VA disability compensation benefits.

Resolution number 83. Extend the service-connected presumptive period for Lou Gehrig's disease.

Resolution Number 98. Require interest to be paid on retroactive awards of one year or more.

Resolution number 164. Supporting a change in the effective date for reduction in VA benefits from 60 to 120 days.

Resolution number 271. Supporting a presumption of service connection for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma resulting from exposure to Agent Orange.

Resolution number 261. Service-connected for residual disability that is related to exposure to Agent Orange.

Resolution number 233. Authorize a three-year service-connected presumptive period for Hodgkin's disease and leukemia.

Resolution number 236. Clothing allowance for service-connected skin conditions that soil clothing.

Resolution number 243. Opposing the offset of VA compensation by social security or any other Federal benefit.

Resolution number 359. Liberalize service connection for chronic diseases contained in Section 301, Title 38.

Resolution number 360. To exempt compensation and DIC benefits from provisions of Section 3113, Title 38. That's for incarcerated veterans.

Now we go from Compensation to DIC:

Resolution number 228. In support of a more equitable DIC formula.

Resolution Number 162. Liberalization of length total service-connected disability criteria for DIC awards under Section 401(b), Title 38.

Resolution number 358. Liberalize length of marriage criteria for DIC deaths under Section 410(b), Title 38.

Resolution number 351. Social Security entitlement to children in cases of DIC awards under Section 410(b), Title 38.

Resolution number 224. Establish a housebound allowance under the dependent parent DIC program.

Now we switch to Judicial Review:

Resolution number 60. Establish the Board of Veterans Appeals as a separate independent appellate board.

Resolution number 59. Authorize judicial review of VA rules and regulations.

Resolution number 224. Oppose judicial review of individual VA benefit determinations.

Resolution number 235. Opposing the lifting of private property fee restrictions for VA benefit representation.

Now dealing the National Cemetery:

Resolution number 74. In support of at least one national cemetery in each state.

Resolution number 247. In support of a uniform policy on cement graveliners in all national cemeteries.

Resolution number 84. Restore eligibility for burial allowance to that prior to enactment of Public Law 9735.

Now we go to the category of insurance:

Resolution number 66. Increase the face value of RH insurance to 20,000 as amended by the committee.

Resolution number 43. Extend eligibility for mortgage protection life insurance to 100 percent service-connected veterans as amended in committee.

Resolution number 41. Open period to apply for service-disabled veterans' insurance. That's RH insurance.

Resolution number 245. Extend from one year to two years the period to apply for RH insurance.

Now to category of military privileges:

Resolution number 260. Extend commissary PX privileges on the basis of a DIC award.

Resolution number 361. To extend commissary and PX space available travel to certain service-connected veterans rated 30 percent disable who entered service prior to October 1, 1949.

Resolution number 231. Opposing the dissolution of the commissary system.

Resolution number 239. Space available travel aboard military aircraft for 100 percent service-connected veterans.

Now to the category of education:

Resolution number 253. Chapter 35, educational benefits for dependents of 80 percent or more service-connected veterans.

Resolution number 227. Eliminate the limiting date for spouses, surviving spouses, use of Chapter 35 benefits.

Now we go to category of loan warranty:

Resolution number 257. Extend wartime status for VA benefit purposes to persons serving in the Armed Forces between November 12, 1918, and July the 2nd, 1921.

Resolution number 250. Oppose any increase in the loan warranty user fee.

Resolution number 255. Support VA loan warranty program.

Now to the category of Prisoners of War:

Resolution number 166. A POW medal to crew of U.S.S. Pueblo.

Miscellaneous:

Resolution number 270. Support elevation of the Veterans Administration to a Cabinet department.

Resolution number 67. Oppose consolidation of VA regional offices.

Resolution number 259. Supporting adequate funding for all VA programs.

Resolution number 50. To raise the estate limit of certain incompetent institutionalized veterans.

Resolution number 256. Support a joint U.S.-Philippine Commission on Filipino World War II veterans.

Resolution number 258. Equal pay and allowances for certain World War II Filipino veterans.

Resolution number 357. Authorize the VA Department of Veterans Benefits to receive gifts, devices and bequests.

Resolution number 225. Low interest home loans for veterans eligible for VA special adaptive housing.

Resolution number 238. In support of a reasonable limitation of liability arising out of DAV programs.

Resolution number 242. Adequate funding for Postal Service revenue foregone fund.

Resolution number 240. Support exempting VA programs from sequestration under the Gramm-Rudman law.

Resolution number 244. Opposing the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control Recommendations adversely affecting the VA programs.

Resolution number 241. In support of VA control over record processing center.

Resolution number 206. In support of cost-of-living adjustments for military retirees.

Resolution number 208. Move the beginning date of the Vietnam era back to July 1, 1958.

Resolution number 226. Exempt military disability severance pay from federal taxation.

Resolution number 257. Extend wartime status for VA benefit purposes to persons serving in the Armed Forces between December 12, 1918, and July 2, 1921.

Resolution number 124. Oppose award of Purple Heart to civilians.

Comrade Commander, that completes my report. But before I move the adoption, I would first like to, as I have usually in the past, had a wonderful, wonderful committee. And again this year it was just as good as it ever was. And I'd like to ask, as your name is called, if you would please stand and just be recognized.

From District 1 we had Gerald Gregory and Anthony Lauria.

District 2, Richard Wannamacher and James Perkins.

District 3, Louie Ochmanski and Arthur Reed. I think I am getting some of these close in pronunciation.

District 6, Woody Lechausse and Steve Stupak. If you don't quite understand your name, stand up anyway. [Laughter.]

Zygmunt Korejwo—I don't remember seeing anybody with that name. And Francis Phillips.

District 6, Richard D. Younkman and Albert Sewell.

From District 7, Roland Oakley and Joseph Garafola.

District 8, John Archer, Edward L. Scott.

District 9, Jackie Hanshew and William L. Coward.

And, of course, District 10, myself and Keith Gustin.

District 11, Paul deMichael and John Kish.

District 12, James Schroeder and Chauncey Dunday.

District 13, Fred Sutton, Lawrence Sablic.

District 14, Hiram Fuller and Willis Teeter.

District 15, Larry Bowden and Dean Riley.

District 16, Don Pouliot and Frederick Tibbs.

District 17, Kenneth B. Wright, Joseph Schmidt.

District 18, Vernon L. Duke and George Taketa.

District 19, Robert Poole and David Pancake.

District 20, Sam King and Don Sampson.

District 21, David Jeter and Robert Walkney.

And in the Blind chapter, Floyd Britting and Wayne Wimberly.

Gentlemen, I want to again thank you for making it so delightful just to work with you.

At this time, Commander, I have completed my report and I move the adoption.

Mr. **James E. Tillman**, Jr. Mike 1, please.

Commander **Murphy**. Mike 1.

Mr. **Tillman**. Mr. Chairman, commander, I would like a clarification on the GI bill on the insurance. If I could explain without someone calling me out of order like they did the other time, I'd like to say, underneath 22 years, one month, 69 days, does that classify the insurance that you are trying to change?

Commander **Murphy**. Jimmy, you are out of order again. Sorry.

Mr. **Richard D. Younkman**. Mr. Chairman, Younkman, Chapter 26, Virginia. I second the motion.

Commander **Murphy**. What mike are you at?

Mr. **Younkman**. Mike 3.

Commander **Murphy**. Thank you. Discussion. All in favor say Aye. All against say Nay. So moved.

Mr. **Clute**. Mr. Chairman, at this time I move we dismiss the committee with a vote of thanks.

Commander **Murphy**. You have heard the motion. Do we have a second? Mike 3.

Mr. **John E. Hannan**. John Hannan, number 42, Illinois, seconds the motion.

Commander **Murphy**. On the motion. All in favor say Aye. All against say Nay. So moved. [Applause.]

[The above-mentioned resolutions follow:]

Resolution No. 041—Legislative

TO PROVIDE AN OPEN PERIOD TO APPLY FOR SERVICE DISABLED VETERANS INSURANCE (RH)

Whereas, service-connected disabled veterans are entitled to apply for Service Disabled Veterans Insurance (RH) within one year from the date the VA grants service-connection for any disability; and

Whereas, many eligible veterans, due to financial difficulties and problems associated with readjustment to civilian life, did not apply for this insurance within the one year eligibility period; and

Whereas, many of these service-connected disabled veterans are now prepared and can afford to purchase this insurance but are not able to purchase comparable insurance coverage in the private sector; and

Whereas, precedent has been established to extend previously closed "eligibility periods" for certain other VA benefits and services, including insurance: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 seek the enactment of legislation that would authorize an "open period" for eligible service-connected disabled veterans to apply for coverage under the Service Disabled Veterans Insurance Program.

Resolution No. 043—Legislative

TO EXTEND ELIGIBILITY FOR VETERAN MORTGAGE PROTECTION LIFE INSURANCE TO SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS RATED PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED

Whereas, the VA Mortgage Protection Life Insurance is presently available to veterans entitled to the special adapted housing award under Section 801(a) of Title 38, U.S. Code; and

Whereas, service-connected veterans rated as permanently and totally disabled cannot obtain Mortgage Protection Life Insurance through commercial insurance companies; and

Whereas, their widows and dependents must bear an undue hardship upon the death of such veterans: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 seek the enactment of legislation which would extend VA Mortgage Protection Life Insurance to service-connected veterans who are rated as permanently and totally disabled.

RESOLUTION No. 050—LEGISLATIVE

TO RAISE THE ESTATE LIMIT APPLICABLE TO CERTAIN INCOMPETENT, INSTITUTIONALIZED VETERANS

Whereas, current law requires the suspension of VA disability compensation, pension and emergency officer's retirement pay in the case of mentally incompetent veterans who have neither a spouse or child and who are being furnished hospital treatment, institutional or domiciliary care at U.S. government expense once the estate of such veterans equals or exceeds the sum of $1,500.00 (not to be continued until the estate is reduced to $500); and

Whereas, this $1,500 estate level has not been adjusted in many years and conceivably can cause financial hardship to such veterans: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support legislation which would provide a realistic upward adjustment in the present maximum $1,500 estate level that applies to such mentally incompetent, institutionalized veterans.

RESOLUTION No. 059—LEGISLATIVE

REVIEW OF VALIDITY OF VA RULES AND THE RULEMAKING PROCESS

Whereas, current law, Section 211(a) of Title 38, U.S. Code, empowers the Veterans Administration to finalize all decisions on individual benefit claims, in most instances, thereby precluding review of such matters by any other entity; and

Whereas, VA claimants can obtain federal court consideration and review of a Constitutional claim—that a VA benefit decision violated their due process, equal protection or First Amendment rights; and

Whereas, some Federal District Courts have also assumed jurisdiction of challenges to certain VA rules and/or the VA rulemaking process even where no Constitutional rights are at issue; and

Whereas, the opportunity to challenge the validity of a VA rule, or the process by which the rule was promulgated, would add protection for Congressional intent of statutorily established programs and benefits and would not unduly disrupt the adjudication of individual claims: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, The Disabled American Veterans supports the enactment of legislation to provide for the review of the validity of VA rules and the VA rulemaking process in the federal courts and the opportunity to challenge the validity of a VA rule at the Board of Veterans Appeals; and

Be it further resolved, Such review may not challenge any provision in, or affecting the substantive terms of, the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities.

RESOLUTION No. 060—LEGISLATIVE

ESTABLISH THE BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS AS A SEPARATE INDEPENDENT APPELLATE BOARD

Whereas, Chapter 71, Title 38, U.S. Code, established within the Veterans Administration a Board of Veterans Appeals under the administrative control and supervision of a Chairman who is directly responsible to the Administrator of Veterans Affairs; and

Whereas, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board of Veterans Appeals are appointed by the Administrator of Veterans Affairs with the approval of the President of the United States; and

Whereas, all questions on claims involving benefits under the laws administered by the VA are subject to review on appeal to the Administrator and final decisions on such appeals are made by the Board of Veterans Appeals; and

Whereas, the Board of Veterans Appeals is bound in its decisions by the regulations of the VA, instructions of the Administrator and the precedent opinions of the VA's General Counsel; and

Whereas, the present statutory structure and requirements imposed upon the Board of Veterans Appeals fail to provide VA claimants any opportunity to seek review of VA determinations by a separate independent entity that is not under the direct control of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, The Disabled American Veterans supports the enactment of legislation to amend Chapter 71, Title 38, U.S. Code to establish the Board of Veterans Appeals as a separate independent appellate board to review and render final decisions of all questions on claims involving VA benefits; and

Be it further resolved, Such legislation provide for Presidential appointment and Senate confirmation of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board of Veterans Appeals; and

Be it further resolved, That notwithstanding the current provision of law (Section 3404(c), Title 38, U.S. Code) limiting the fee for representing a VA claimant, the payment of a reasonable fee be provided for attorney-at-law representation before this independent appellate Board on the validity of VA rules.

RESOLUTION NO. 066—LEGISLATIVE

TO INCREASE THE FACE VALUE OF SERVICE DISABLED VETERAMS INSURANCE (RH)

Whereas, certain veterans are eligible for National Service Life Insurance (NSLI) under Section 722, Title 38, U.S. Code; and

Whereas, honorably discharged veterans released from active military duty on or after April 25, 1951 found by the Veterans Administration to be suffering from a disability or disabilities for which a compensable evaluation would be payable, shall, upon application, be granted insurance by the United States government under Section 722(a), Title 38, U.S. Code; and

Whereas, this insurance, commonly referred to as RH insurance, is non-participating with no dividends payable; and

Whereas, many of these veterans are uninsurable by private insurance companies as a result of their service-connected disabilities; and

Whereas, inflation has rapidly increased and diminished the value of the insurance since the maximum was set at $10,000: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 support an amendment to Title 38, U.S. Code, to increase the face value of Service Disabled Veterans Insurance (RH) to $20,000.

RESOLUTION NO. 067—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSING THE CONSOLIDATION OF VA REGIONAL OFFICES

Whereas, VA regional offices were established to provide a more expeditious method of providing services to veterans, their dependents and survivors; and

Whereas, because of federal budgetary restrictions, VA regional offices are presently encountering difficulties in providing such services; and

Whereas, the consolidation of all regional offices would further inhibit and disrupt the VA's ability to provide timely and responsible service to veterans: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 oppose any proposal to centralize veterans' claims processing services.

RESOLUTION NO. 074—LEGISLATIVE

TO PROVIDE FOR A NATIONAL CEMETERY IN EVERY STATE

Whereas, there are many states and regions of the United States without National Cemetery facilities; and

Whereas, federal and state land ideally suited for cemetery development is available in many states; and

Whereas, veterans should be entitled to burial in a National Cemetery reasonably close to their homes; and

Whereas, VA's current policy of regionalization does not always insure that eligible deceased veterans can be interred close to their families: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support legislation to provide for at least one open National Cemetery in each state to insure that all veterans may be buried in a National Cemetery reasonably close to their homes.

Resolution No. 077—Legislative

CONCURRENT PAYMENTS OF VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY

Whereas, ex-servicemen who are retired from the military on length of service must waive a portion of their retired pay in order to receive disability compensation from the Veterans Administration; and

Whereas, it would be more equitable if the laws and regulations were changed to provide that in such cases the veteran would be entitled to receive both benefits concurrently since eligibility was accrued or earned under two entirely different sets of enabling laws and regulations: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support legislation and changes in applicable regulations which would provide that a veteran who is retired for length of service and is later adjudicated as having service-connected disabilities, may receive concurrent benefits from the military department and from the VA without deduction from either.

Resolution No. 083—Legislative

EXTEND THE "PRESUMPTIVE PERIOD" FOR AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS

Whereas, Title 38, U.S. Code, currently authorizes that the condition of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), becoming manifest to a compensably disabling degree within one year of discharge from military service, shall be presumed to be incurred in or aggravated by such service for VA disability compensation benefit purposes; and

Whereas, ALS is often misdiagnosed in its initial stages and is extremely insidious in nature; and

Whereas, the current one year presumptive period that applies to ALS is felt to be too restrictive and results in the denial of service-connected status in cases where the onset of this condition most likely did occur during military service: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988, support the enactment of legislation that would authorize a seven year presumptive period for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis for VA disability compensation benefit purposes.

Resolution No. 084—Legislative

RESTORE ENTITLEMENT TO THE VA BURIAL ALLOWANCE

Whereas, Public Law 97-35 terminated entitlement to the VA nonservice-connected burial allowance to the survivors of certain wartime veterans who, at the time of death, were not in receipt of VA disability compensation, pension or military retirement pay, and

Whereas, the denial of the VA's nonservice-connected burial allowance to the survivors of wartime veterans can cause financial hardship for these survivors: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support legislation that would authorize VA nonservice-connected burial benefit entitlement to the survivors of all wartime veterans.

RESOLUTION NO. 095—LEGISLATIVE

DISABILITY COMPENSATION INCREASE

Whereas, it is the historical policy of the Disabled American Veterans that this nation's first duty to veterans is to provide for the rehabilitation of its wartime disabled; and

Whereas, the percentage ratings for service-connected disabilities represent, as far as can be practicably determined, the average impairment in earnings capacity resulting from such diseases and injuries in civil occupations; and

Whereas, compensation increases should be based on the loss of earnings capacity; and

Whereas, disabled veterans who are unable to work because of service-connected disabilities should be entitled to compensation payments commensurate with the after tax earnings of their able-bodied contemporaries: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 support the enactment of legislation to provide a realistic increase in VA compensation rates to bring the standard of living of disabled veterans in line with that which they would have enjoyed had they not suffered their service-connected disabilities.

RESOLUTION NO. 098—LEGISLATIVE

IN SUPPORT OF INTEREST PAYMENTS FOR VA RETROACTIVE AWARDS OF ONE YEAR OR MORE

Whereas, under current law and regulation, VA claimants who incur indebtednesses to the United States government, in addition to the principal amount of such indebtednesses, are assessed and must pay interest charges; and

Whereas, VA claimants are often denied timely receipt of their rightfully earned benefits due to prolonged bureaucratic delay in the VA adjudication process and/or through clear and unmistakable error on the part of VA Rating Board authorities; and

Whereas, VA claimants who are denied timely receipt of their rightfully earned benefits do not receive interest payments from the government and therefore incur a loss of investment income which could have been received had they received benefits in a timely fashion: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 seek the enactment of legislation that would require the VA to pay interest on all retroactive benefit awards in excess of one year or more.

RESOLUTION NO. 106—LEGISLATIVE

TO EXEMPT PARAGRAPH 30 BENEFITS FROM THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF AWARD CHANGE CONTAINED IN PUBLIC LAW 97–253

Whereas, Public Law 97–253, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982, changed, for payment purposes, the effective date of an original or increased award of VA compensation or pension to the first day of the first full calendar month of entitlement; and

Whereas, this change, as applied to an award of increased compensation under Paragraph 30 of the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities (temporary 100% ratings due to convalescence required for a service-connected disability) treats those affected veterans unfairly; and

Whereas, this unfair application of the effective date change creates a financial hardship on disabled veterans and their families during a time of personal stress and crisis: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 seek the enactment of legislation that would exempt the payment of an increased award of compensation under Paragraph 30 of the VA's Schedule for Rating Disabilities from the effective date change contained in Public Law 97–253.

RESOLUTION No. 124—ADMINISTRATIVE

OPPOSE THE GRANTING OF THE PURPLE HEART MEDAL TO CIVILIANS

Whereas, the Secretary of the Army recently approved a regulation which would award the Purple Heart to civilians who were wounded while serving the Army in the line of duty; and

Whereas, the Purple Heart has been an award which has been exclusively awarded to military personnel who were wounded in combat in time of war or national emergency; and

Whereas, another type of medal or award should be developed to be given civilian employees of the Department of Defense or any civilian agency of the federal government if they are wounded while in a duty or temporary duty (TDY) status: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 oppose awarding of the Purple Heart Medal to civilians and support the development of a suitable medal for combat wounds incurred by civilian employees; and

Be it further resolved, That in the event that the Department of Defense does not want to go along with this proposal that legislation be introduced in Congress to preclude the Purple Heart from being awarded to civilian employees of the government.

RESOLUTION No. 162—LEGISLATIVE

IN SUPPORT OF A LIBERALIZATION OF SECTION 410(b), TITLE 38, U.S. CODE

Whereas, Section 410(b), Title 38, U.S. Code, currently authorizes payment of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits to the eligible survivors of certain veterans rated permanently and totally disabled from service-connected causes at time of death, even though the cause of death is not related to a service-connected disability; and

Whereas, among the statutory criteria governing authorization of these "presumptive" DIC awards is a stipulation that the permanent and total service-connected disability rating must have been in effect (a) for at least ten continuous years immediately preceding death or (b) five continuous years from date of discharge or release from active military service; and

Whereas, the "ten continuous years" requirement noted above is thought to be unduly restrictive and prohibits the award of DIC benefits to financially disadvantaged survivors: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 seek the enactment of legislation modifying Section 410(b), Title 38, U.S. Code, to authorize DIC payments to the eligible survivors of veterans who were rated totally and permanently disabled from service-connected causes for at least five continuous years immediately preceding death or five continuous years subsequent to date of discharge or release from active military service.

RESOLUTION No. 164—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORTING A CHANGE IN THE EFFECTIVE DATE FROM 60 TO 120 DAYS FOR REDUCTION IN VA BENEFITS

Whereas, Section 3012, Title 38, U.S. Code, sets forth the requirement for an effective date when a reduction in benefits is to be made to a claimant; and

Whereas, currently, reduction in benefits is effective the last day of the month following 60 days from the date of notice to the payee; and

Whereas, such reductions in VA benefits often cause a hardship until veterans can adjust their standard of living; and

Whereas, these veterans need a longer period of time in which to adjust to a reduction in their benefits: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, By the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 that Title 38, U.S. Code, be amended to provide that any reduction in service-connected benefits shall be the last day of the month following 120 days from the date of notice to the payee.

RESOLUTION NO. 166—LEGISLATIVE

TO AUTHORIZE THE PRISONER-OF-WAR MEDAL TO INCARCERATED CREW MEMBERS OF THE U.S.S. PUEBLO

Whereas, Department of Defense officials have announced that the Prisoner-of-War Medal is available for distribution to former prisoners-of-war who rendered honorable service during their period of captivity; and

Whereas, U.S. Navy officials have denied the award of the POW Medal to the crew members of the U.S.S. Pueblo, alleging that they were "detainees" rather than prisoners-of-war; and

Whereas, the U.S.S. Pueblo was illegally seized by North Korean warships on January 23, 1968, and the crew members were held in captivity during the period of January 23 through December 24, 1968; and

Whereas, U.S.S. Pueblo crew members were wounded or injured, many permanently, as a result of beatings or other forms of torture while in captivity during the period of 11 months and one day: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support legislation to provide the same consideration for the award of the POW Medal to the crew members of the U.S.S. *Pueblo* (AGER-2) as provided to other former prisoners-of-war.

RESOLUTION NO. 176—LEGISLATIVE

TO PROVIDE A 15 YEAR PROTECTION PERIOD FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY EVALUATIONS

Whereas, Section 110, of Title 38, U.S. Code, now provides for the protection of all disability compensation evaluations that have been continuously in effect for 20 or more years; and

Whereas, permanency should be conceded for disability compensation ratings which have been in effect for 15 years without change in evaluation with no further examination scheduled: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, By the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 that Section 110 of Title 38, U.S. Code, be amended to provide that disability evaluations continuously in effect at the same evaluation rate be protected after a period of 15 years.

RESOLUTION NO. 206—LEGISLATIVE

IN SUPPORT OF COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS FOR MILITARY RETIREES

Whereas, the Fiscal Year 1986 sequestration order issued pursuant to Public Law 99-177, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, prevented military retirees from receiving a cost of living adjustment (COLA) in their benefits; and

Whereas, other categories of federal annuitants and beneficiaries—Social Security and VA service-connected disability compensation and nonservice connected pension recipients, for example—did receive a COLA in Fiscal Year 1986; and

Whereas, it is basically unfair—especially in the case of military disability retirees—to provide a COLA to one category of federal beneficiary while withholding such an adjustment from another category: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support legislation in the Congress which would ensure the timely extension of COLAs to military retirees when similar adjustments are being authorized for beneficiaries in the Social Security and VA benefit programs.

RESOLUTION NO. 208—LEGISLATIVE

IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDING THE VIETNAM ERA

Whereas, Title 38, U.S. Code, currently defines the Vietnam Era as beginning on August 5, 1964, and ending on May 7, 1975; and

Whereas, the U.S. military has recognized our involvement in Vietnam by awarding the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for service beginning on July 1, 1958; and

Whereas, veterans who served in Vietnam between July 1, 1958, and August 4, 1964, and their survivors are being denied wartime Veterans Administration benefits: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 seek the enactment of legislation to change the beginning date of the Vietnam Era from August 5, 1964 to July 1, 1958.

RESOLUTION NO. 224—LEGISLATIVE

TO ESTABLISH A HOUSEBOUND ALLOWANCE UNDER THE VA'S DEPENDENT PARENT DIC PROGRAM

Whereas, the monthly rate of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) or nonservice-connected death pension payable to a surviving spouse may be increased if such spouse requires (1) the aid and attendance of another person or (2) if permanently housebound by reason of disability; and

Whereas, a parent in receipt of DIC and who requires the aid and attendance of another person may also receive an increased amount of DIC benefits due to such helplessness; and

Whereas, a parent, however, who is receiving DIC benefits and is permanently housebound by reason of disability is not eligible to receive increased benefits as the law does not now provide such a housebound allowance which is currently provided to eligible surviving spouses under the nonservice connected death pension and DIC programs: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support the enactment of legislation to establish a housebound allowance under the VA's Dependent Parent DIC Program thereby providing equal benefits to similarly situated VA beneficiaries.

RESOLUTION NO. 225—LEGISLATIVE

EXTEND LOW-INTEREST HOME LOANS TO VETERANS ELIGIBLE UNDER THE VA SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING PROGRAM

Whereas, Section 801, Title 38, U.S. Code, provides $38,000 to certain eligible service-connected veterans for assistance in obtaining specially adapted homes; and

Whereas, interest rates in today's market may in some instances be a prohibitive factor in permitting these severely disabled veterans to either modify their existing homes or to construct new homes; and

Whereas, the Department of Housing and Urban Development currently administers a program which subsidizes home mortgages for certain seriously handicapped citizens; and

Whereas, similar benefits should be made available for service-connected disabled veterans eligible for assistance under the VA specially adapted housing program: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 seek the enactment of legislation which would authorize the Veterans Administration to extend federally subsidized low-interest loans to veterans eligible for VA specially adapted housing award.

RESOLUTION NO. 226—LEGISLATIVE

TO EXCLUDE MILITARY DISABILITY SEVERANCE PAY FROM FEDERAL INCOME TAX

Whereas, the enactment of Public Law 94-455, the Tax Reform Act of 1976, created an anomaly whereby military disability severance pay is considered taxable income for Internal Revenue Service (IRS) purposes; and

Whereas, under IRS regulations, promulgated based upon Public Law 94-455, military disability severance pay is now considered a lump sum readjustment benefit; and

Whereas, veterans who receive disability severance pay from the Armed Forces and who make claims with the Veterans Administration are taxed on the amount of such pay and may not receive the VA benefits to which they may otherwise be entitled until 100% of the lump sum severance pay has been recouped by the VA; and

Whereas, VA compensation payments made to veterans who have incurred a disability while on active military duty are exempt from taxes; and

Whereas, the effect of such action by the Internal Revenue Service amounts to a tax upon the payment of benefits for disability incurred in or aggravated by active military service: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 seek the enactment of legislation which would expressly prohibit a tax levied on military disability severance pay.

RESOLUTION NO. 227—LEGISLATIVE

ELIMINATE THE DELIMITING DATE FOR ELIGIBLE SPOUSES AND SURVIVING SPOUSES FOR BENEFITS PROVIDED UNDER CHAPTER 35, TITLE 38, U.S. CODE

Whereas, dependents and survivors eligible for VA education benefits under Chapter 35, Title 38, U.S. Code, have ten years in which to apply for and complete a program of education; and

Whereas, this ten year period begins either from the date a veteran is evaluated by the VA as permanently and totally disabled from service-connected disabilities or ten years from the date of such veteran's death due to service-connected disability; and

Whereas, in many instances, because of family obligations or the need to provide care to the veteran, spouses or surviving spouses may not have had an opportunity to apply for these benefits: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 seek the enactment of legislation which would eliminate the delimiting date for spouses and surviving spouses for purposes of benefits provided under Chapter 35, Title 38, U.S. Code.

RESOLUTION NO. 228—LEGISLATIVE

IMPROVE THE VA'S DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION PROGRAM

Whereas, the rates of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments to eligible beneficiaries are based upon a deceased veteran's former military rank attained while on active duty service; and

Whereas, payments based upon military rank inherently create inequities between those at the top of the scale and those at the bottom; and

Whereas, linking DIC benefit payments for surviving spouses to a veteran's military rank attained many years ago does not adequately reflect today's standard of living; the loss of income based on current economic conditions; nor recognize the extent to which a service-connected disability impairs earning capacity over a lifetime: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 seek the enactment of legislation which would provide for a more equitable formula on which to base VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation payments; and

Be it further resolved, That DIC beneficiaries currently on the rolls shall have the option to continue receiving benefits under the current program or to elect benefits under any new proposal adopted by the Congress so long as such election is beneficial to the surviving spouse.

RESOLUTION NO. 231—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSING THE DISSOLUTION OF THE MILITARY COMMISSARY SYSTEM

Whereas, the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control—the so-called Grace Commission—recommended that all stateside military commissaries be closed to save taxpayer dollars; and

Whereas, some members of Congress have proposed to phase-out the Military Commissary System; and

Whereas, the Commissary System is of vital importance to the personnel of our Armed Forces; and

Whereas, active duty personnel, their dependents, retired military and disabled veterans who live on fixed incomes should have high quality food at fair and reasonable prices: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 vigorously oppose any proposal to phase-out the Armed Forces Commissary System.

RESOLUTION No. 232—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSING A FREEZE IN THE RATES OF VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION BENEFITS

Whereas, no segment of our society is more deserving of federal benefits and services than those veterans who have incurred disabilities while serving their country honorably in time of need; and

Whereas, under the guise of "reducing federal expenditures," proposals have been advanced to freeze the current rates of VA disability compensation benefits; and

Whereas, the disability compensation benefits of service-connected disabled veterans should be periodically adjusted to reflect inflationary pressures and the rise in the costs of goods and services; and

Whereas, service-connected disabled veterans, who have suffered so much for their country, should not be expected to endure further hardships such as would occur should a cost of living adjustment be denied to their benefits: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 oppose any freeze in the VA disability compensation program if such program is singled out for such treatment among all other major federal entitlement programs.

RESOLUTION No. 233—LEGISLATIVE

EXTEND THE "PRESUMPTIVE PERIOD" FOR HODGKIN'S DISEASE AND LEUKEMIA

Whereas, Title 38, U.S. Code, currently authorizes that the conditions of Hodgkin's Disease and leukemia, becoming manifest to a compensably disabling degree within one year of discharge from military service, shall be presumed to be incurred in or aggravated by such service for VA disability compensation benefit purposes; and

Whereas, Hodgkin's Disease and leukemia are often misdiagnosed in their initial stages, which are extremely insidious in nature; and

Whereas, the current one year presumptive period that applies to these two conditions is felt to be too restrictive and results in the denial of service-connected status in cases where the onset of these conditions most likely did occur during military service: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support the enactment of legislation that would authorize a three year presumptive period for the conditions of Hodgkin's Disease and leukemia for VA disability compensation benefit purposes.

RESOLUTION No. 234—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSING THE JUDICIAL REVIEW OF INDIVIDUAL VETERAN BENEFIT CLAIMS IN THE FEDERAL COURT SYSTEM

Whereas, legislation has been introduced in the Congress—H.R. 639—that would permit the judicial review of individual veteran benefit claims in the federal court system; and

Whereas, the federal court system is overburdened and would not provide uniformity of decisions in individual benefit claims to the degree as is currently practiced by the Veterans Administration; and

Whereas, federal court decisions regarding individual veteran benefit claims would establish precedents that would endanger the favorable disposition of other veterans' claims and benefits; and

Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans believes the current informal, non-adversarial system of considering claims for Veterans Administration benefits is basically and essentially fair and provides for equitable, fair distribution of benefits and should be maintained: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 oppose the enactment of H.R. 639 or similar legislation that would provide for the judicial review of individual veteran benefit claims in the federal court system.

RESOLUTION No. 235—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSING THE LIFTING OF PRIVATE ATTORNEY FEE RESTRICTIONS FOR VA BENEFIT REPRESENTATION

Whereas, legislation presently pending in the Congress would remove current attorney fee restrictions for VA benefit representation; and

Whereas, such a removal would open up a lucrative multi-million dollar "bonanza" for attorneys, funnelling compensation dollars out of the pockets of disabled veterans and into the pockets of attorneys as has been the case in Social Security and Black Lung claims; and

Whereas, presently veterans and their families receive high quality free representation through the service programs of the various veterans' organizations; and

Whereas, Board of Veterans Appeals statistics over the last 10 years show virtually no difference in the allowance rates of DAV NSOs and private attorneys; and

Whereas, this data does not adequately reflect the quality of DAV representation since DAV NSOs are required to initiate appellate action whenever requested to do so by the claimant while private attorneys "pick and choose" accepting only those cases where they feel there is a probability of securing a favorable decision; and

Whereas, in claims presented before VA Central Office for Administrative Review, where the DAV is permitted to "pick and choose" cases for consideration, the records show an allowance rate of 83% of all cases submitted from July 1, 1987 to June 30, 1988: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 oppose any legislation which would remove or modify the present statutory attorney fee restrictions for VA representation.

RESOLUTION No. 236—LEGISLATIVE

TO AMEND CURRENT LAW REGARDING THE PAYMENT OF THE ANNUAL CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

Whereas, current law provides for the payment of an annual clothing allowance to veterans who, on account of their service-connected conditions, wear or use a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance which tends to wear out or tear their clothing; and

Whereas, many veterans who have service-connected conditions which, for various reasons, soil, stain or otherwise ruin their clothing are not now entitled to the annual VA clothing allowance; and

Whereas, veterans with such disabilities have incurred expenses in replacing the items of clothing ruined because of their service-connected conditions: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 support an amendment of Section 362, Title 38, U.S. Code, to include the payment of an annual clothing allowance to veterans whose clothing is soiled, stained or otherwise ruined as a result of their service-connected conditions.

RESOLUTION No. 238—LEGISLATIVE

IN SUPPORT OF A REASONABLE LIMITATION ON LIABILITY ARISING OUT OF DAV PROGRAMS OF SERVICE

Whereas, the DAV, its Department and Chapter affiliates, have established an envious record of providing an array of services to our nation's veterans, their dependents and survivors; and

Whereas, for more than sixty years the DAV has freely assisted countless numbers of veterans and their dependents in the perfection of claims before the Veterans Administration and other federal and state agencies; and

Whereas, DAV Departments and Chapters actively participate in the Veterans Administration Volunteer Services (VAVS) Program, contributing millions of hours of valuable service and assistance to hospitalized veterans; and

Whereas, the DAV, its Departments and Chapters, recognizing the need for increased aid and service to our aging veteran population have established an Older Veterans Assistance Program (OVAP); and

Whereas, the DAV and other charitable organizations are facing a serious compromise in their ability to provide such services due to the prohibitive cost and/or the inability to obtain adequate liability insurance coverage; and

Whereas, this situation can only be viewed as a national tragedy affecting the "Good Samaritan" efforts of all charitable organizations: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support legislation to set a reasonable limit on certain liability arising out of the free programs of service and assistance provided by the Disabled American Veterans.

Resolution No. 239—Legislative

TO EXTEND SPACE AVAILABLE AIR TRAVEL ABOARD MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO 100 SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS

Whereas, 100% totally disabled service-connected veterans have sacrificed greatly in terms of their impairments and loss of earnings capacity; and

Whereas, more than any other living group of Americans, such veterans should be eligible for all benefits and privileges that the Congress may provide; and

Whereas, such totally disabled veterans should be extended the same privileges as other personnel currently authorized to utilize space available military air travel; and

Whereas, the extension of such travel to totally disabled service-connected veterans would not place any additional burden upon the administration of this program: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 seek the enactment of legislation which would extend space available air travel aboard military aircraft to all 100% service connected disabled veterans to the same extent and under the same conditions as is currently provided to retired military personnel.

Resolution No. 240—Legislative

TO EXEMPT VA SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY AND DEATH BENEFIT PROGRAMS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF GRAMM/RUDMAN/HOLLINGS

Whereas, Congress passed and the President signed into law the Deficit Reduction Act of 1985—Public Law 99-177—commonly referred to as the Gramm/Rudman/Hollings balanced budget amendment; and

Whereas, provisions of the Gramm/Rudman/Hollings balanced budget amendment have resulted in the Veterans Administration ordering reductions in a number of service-connected disability and death benefit programs on March 1, 1986; and

Whereas, the Veterans Administration unfairly singled out direct benefit payment programs for service-connected disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors to meet the deficit reduction savings required by Gramm/Rudman/ Hollings; and

Whereas, these actions by the Veterans Administration are contrary to the intent of Congress as set forth in the legislative history of Public Law 99-177—wherein the VA disability compensation program was to be exempted from the sequestering provisions of the measure: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support legislation that would exempt all VA service-connected disability and death benefit programs from the sequestering provisions of the Gramm/Rudman/ Hollings balanced budget amendment.

RESOLUTION No. 241—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORTING LEGISLATION TO MAINTAIN VA CONTROL OVER ITS RECORDS PROCESSING CENTER

Whereas, there exists a concentrated effort on the part of the General Services Administration to assume jurisdiction over the St. Louis, Missouri Records Processing Center (RPC); and

Whereas, RPC operations are currently controlled by the Veterans Administration, this being necessary as that agency has a daily need for immediate access and transfer of VA records with respect to claims for VA benefits; and

Whereas, a GSA take-over of RPC would greatly impede the VA claims adjudication process and, in fact, destroy the "one stop" agency concept that has been developed for VA claimants: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support the enactment of legislation to provide that the records of all active or potentially active claims for benefits under laws administered by the VA shall be maintained by the Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

RESOLUTION No. 242—LEGISLATIVE

REQUESTING ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THE POSTAL SERVICE REVENUE FOREGONE FUND

Whereas, Congress has historically provided preferred postal rates for charitable nonprofit organizations so that such organizations can direct greater financial resources into their charitable activities; and

Whereas, the current Administration has attempted to severely reduce the funding provided to the Postal Service revenue foregone fund; and

Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans is a nonprofit charitable organization devoted to the cause of aiding and assisting all service-connected disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 seek the enactment of adequate appropriations for the funding of the Postal Service revenue foregone fund.

RESOLUTION No. 243—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSING ANY PROPOSAL THAT WOULD OFFSET PAYMENTS OF SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS OR ANY OTHER FEDERAL BENEFIT BY VA COMPENSATION

Whereas, there has been consideration given to proposing an offset of Social Security Disability Insurance Benefits by payments of any other federal benefit; and

Whereas, the adoption of such a measure would reduce the overall income provided to those service-connected veterans who have a compensable disability and who also suffer a permanent and total disability for purposes of Disability Insurance Benefits from the Social Security Administration; and

Whereas, such an offset would work a grave and undue hardship on all totally disabled service-connected veterans and their families by drastically reducing their total income; and

Whereas, benefits received from the Veterans Administration or under military retirement pay and other federal programs have differing eligibility criteria as compared to the earned payments of Social Security Disability Insurance Benefits: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 oppose any measure which proposes to offset the payment of any other federal benefit or earned benefit entitlement by VA compensation payments made to service-connected disabled veterans.

RESOLUTION No. 244—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSING THE PRESIDENT'S PRIVATE SECTOR SURVEY ON COST CONTROL (PPSSCC) RECOMMENDATIONS ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Whereas, numerous misguided and ill-conceived recommendations, derived from erroneous and incomplete data, have been advanced by the PPSSCC; and

Whereas, implementation of certain recommendations would adversely affect the delivery of veterans' earned benefits and impede or destroy the total scope of the VA's comprehensive medical care system; and

Whereas, if these recommendations were adopted, a majority of the VA's mandated and moral obligations to administer veterans' statutory entitlements would be delegated to other federal agencies or for-profit private sector interests; and

Whereas, the Congress has established the VA as the sole agency for effective and compassionate administration of entitlement programs and medical care services to this nation's 28 million veterans, their dependents and survivors: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 vigorously oppose the implementation of any PPSSCC proposal that would dilute or destroy the current authority of the VA to administer veterans' entitlement programs.

RESOLUTION No. 245—LEGISLATIVE

EXTEND FROM ONE YEAR TO TWO YEARS THE PERIOD TO APPLY FOR NATIONAL SERVICE LIFE INSURANCE (RH)

Whereas, Section 722, Title 38, U.S. Code, provides service-connected disabled veterans one year from the date that service-connection for disability is initially established by the VA in which to apply for NSLI; and

Whereas, many young veterans are solicited by private insurance companies immediately following their discharge from service, which has often caused confusion for such veterans When evaluating their need for life insurance: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, By the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 that Section 722, Title 38, U.S. Code, be amended to extend from one to two years the period in which service-connected disabled veterans may apply for National Service Life Insurance (RH).

RESOLUTION No. 246—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSING THE TAXATION OF VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION BENEFITS

Whereas, the Tax Simplification Plan, released by the Department of the Treasury in November 1984, proposed the federal taxation of VA disability compensation benefits; and

Whereas, in the entire history of the disability compensation program these benefits have never been subject to taxation at either the federal, state or local levels; and

Whereas, taxation of these benefits would amount to nothing more than a permanent, enduring reduction in benefits and would demean the sacrifice and service of our nation's service connected disabled veteran population: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 vigorously oppose any proposal that would subject VA disability compensation benefits to taxation.

RESOLUTION No. 247—LEGISLATIVE

IN SUPPORT OF A UNIFORM POLICY TO PROVIDE CEMENT GRAVE LINERS IN ALL NATIONAL CEMETERIES

Whereas, cement grave liners prevent deterioration and enhance maintenance of in-ground burial sites; and

Whereas, the VA presently has no uniform policy of providing cement grave liners throughout its National Cemetery System, utilizing such liners in some cemeteries and not in others; and

Whereas, the burial sites for veterans in our National Cemetery System should be of the highest quality possible: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support funding of our National Cemetery System sufficient to allow the VA to establish and maintain a uniform policy of providing cement grave liners in all National Cemeteries.

RESOLUTION No. 248—LEGISLATIVE

IN SUPPORT OF EFFECTIVE DATES FOR FUTURE VA SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION BENEFIT ADJUSTMENTS AS EXPRESSED IN PUBLIC LAW 98-223

Whereas, the service-connected disability and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation adjustments authorized by Public Law 98-223, the Veterans' Compensation and Program Improvements Act of 1984, represented a six month delay in the receipt of such adjusted rates; and

Whereas, this same Act expressed the sense of the Congress that, commencing with Fiscal Year 1985 and thereafter, all future service-connected disability and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation adjustments shall become effective December 1st of each fiscal year: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support the date of December 1st of each year as the effective date of future service-connected disability and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation increases that are legislated by the U.S. Congress.

RESOLUTION No. 250—ADMINISTRATIVE

OPPOSE INCREASING THE VA HOME LOAN GUARANTY LOAN ORIGINATION FEE

Whereas, the VA currently charges veterans (other than those with a compensably disabling service-connected disability) a 1% user fee for a VA Home Loan Guaranty; and

Whereas, the DAV has serious reservations regarding any requirement that veterans pay for the privilege of using an earned benefit; and

Whereas, the current Administration has proposed increasing the VA home loan origination fee on several occasions: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 oppose any attempt to increase the VA home loan origination fee.

RESOLUTION No. 252—LEGISLATIVE

OPPOSING THE INDEXING OF VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION BENEFITS

Whereas, the Administration and the Office of Management and Budget have proposed that future adjustments in VA service-connected disability compensation benefits shall be automatically "indexed" to changes in the Consumer Price Index; and

Whereas, adjustments of the benefit levels in this most important VA program have always been determined through legislative action by the U.S. Congress; and

Whereas, over the years such legislated increases have resulted in high benefit levels for disabled veterans, improvement in other compensation related entitlements and a continued and active Congressional oversight over the entire compensation program: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 go on record as being strongly opposed to the automatic indexing of future adjustments in the VA service-connected disability compensation program.

RESOLUTION No. 253—LEGISLATIVE

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FOR DEPENDENTS OF SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS RATED 80% OR MORE DISABLED

Whereas, Chapter 35, Title 38, U.S. Code, extends educational assistance to the dependents of service-connected veterans who are evaluated as permanently and totally disabled; and

Whereas, there are many service-connected veterans rated 80% and 90% disabled, whose dependents cannot afford to attend an institution of higher learning or pursue a vocational endeavor because of the reduced earning ability of such veterans: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 seek the enactment of legislation which would extend educational assistance under Chapter 35, Title 38, U.S. Code, to the dependents of veterans who have a service-connected disability rating of 80% or more.

RESOLUTION NO. 254—LEGISLATIVE

RELEASE OF LIABILITY UPON ASSUMPTION OF VA HOME LOANS

Whereas, Section 1817, Title 38, U.S. Code, sets forth the provisions under which a veteran may apply for a release of liability when disposing of a residential property secured by a VA loan; and

Whereas, application for release of liability from the VA loan must be accomplished by both the veteran and the transferee assuming the loan; and

Whereas, assumption of VA loans is an attractive feature of the VA Home Loan Program that enable veterans to sell their homes easily; and

Whereas, many veterans who have utilized this means of selling their homes have not been made fully aware of their continued liability for the loan unless they secure a release of liability: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support legislation that will release a veteran from liability on a VA loan when the loan is transferred on an assumption.

RESOLUTION NO. 255—LEGISLATIVE

IN SUPPORT OF THE VA HOME LOAN PROGRAM

Whereas, the Veterans Administration Home Loan Program was established in 1944 to assist eligible veterans obtain affordable housing; and

Whereas, more than 12 million veterans have used the VA Home Loan Program to purchase a home; and

Whereas, in recent years the housing and mortgage industries have experienced volatile financial conditions due to various economic factors; and

Whereas, these conditions have negatively impacted upon the VA Home Loan Program and the use of the program by veterans, including service-connected disabled veterans; and

Whereas, as a result of such conditions a number of recommendations have been proposed that would impact negatively upon eligible veterans' use of the program: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 continue to support a strong and viable VA Home Loan Program available to all eligible veterans.

RESOLUTION NO. 256—ADMINISTRATIVE

SUPPORT A JOINT UNITED STATES/PHILIPPINE COMMISSION ON FILIPINO VETERANS WHO SERVED DURING WORLD WAR II

Whereas, certain Filipino veterans who fought against the Japanese during World War II are now extended Veterans Administration benefits and services; and

Whereas, many other Filipino World War II veterans also fought against the Japanese and are not recognized for such services by the extension of Veterans Administration benefits: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support the establishment of a joint United States/Philippine Commission on Filipino veterans.

RESOLUTION No. 257—LEGISLATIVE

TO EXTEND WARTIME STATUS TO PERSONS SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES BETWEEN NOVEMBER 12, 1918 AND JULY 2, 1921

Whereas, many veterans served in the Armed Forces of the United States during the period November 12, 1918 and July 2, 1921; and

Whereas, many of these veterans were serving on foreign soil and suffered many hardships as a result of such service; and

Whereas, wartime status for these veterans was terminated by the Economy Act of 1933: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 supports H.R. 196 to extend wartime status to persons serving in the Armed Forces between November 12, 1918 and July 2, 1921.

RESOLUTION No. 258—LEGISLATIVE

EQUAL VA BENEFITS TO CERTAIN PHILIPPINE WORLD WAR II VETERANS

Whereas, Section 107, Title 38, U.S. Code, provides that the VA monetary benefits payable to certain eligible World War II Filipino veterans shall be at one-half the amount paid to eligible U.S. veterans; and

Whereas, such Filipino veterans fought, suffered and were injured while engaged in combat against an enemy of the United States of America and were in such service pursuant to the military order of the President dated July 26, 1941; and

Whereas, the DAV supports the principle of equal benefits to all veterans who were disabled in the military service of the United States: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 support legislation to provide equal service-connected disability compensation benefits to all eligible Philippine Commonwealth Army veterans, recognized guerrillas and Philippine Scouts at the same rate of disability compensation that applies to service-connected veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States.

RESOLUTION No. 259—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORTING ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR ALL VA PROGRAMS

Whereas, understaffing of VA programs in recent years has hampered the VA's ability to effectively administer programs intended to benefit this nation's veterans; and

Whereas, continued efforts by the Office of Management and Budget to reduce the VA budget will lead to further deterioration of all VA programs; and

Whereas, this nation's first concern should be to fulfill its obligation to those who served in the military services in defense of the country: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 seek and strongly support adequate funding. for all VA programs.

RESOLUTION No. 260—LEGISLATIVE

TO EXTEND COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES ON THE BASIS OF AN AWARD OF DIC BENEFITS

Whereas, current Department of Defense regulations authorize military commissary and exchange privileges to a broad category of active and retired military personnel, their dependents and survivors; and

Whereas, these regulations authorize such privileges to the spouses of living veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability and to the survivors of veterans who were permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability at time of death; and

Whereas, the survivors of veterans whose service-connected impairments were evaluated at less than totally disabling but whose deaths were determined to be service related are denied these privileges: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 support the enactment of legislation that would authorize military commissary and exchange privileges for the survivors of veterans whose deaths were found to be related to a service-connected disability.

Resolution No. 261—Legislative

TO PROVIDE SERVICE-CONNECTION FOR RESIDUAL DISABILITY RELATED TO AGENT ORANGE

Whereas, from 1965 to 1970 some 10.65 million gallons of the chemical defoliant Agent Orange were used extensively throughout Vietnam; and

Whereas, thousands of U.S. Troops were sprayed directly or were repeatedly exposed to herbicides containing dioxin; and

Whereas, with the exception of a skin condition—chloracne—the Veterans Administration has not granted a single claim for residual disabilities related to exposure to Agent Orange; and

Whereas, Public Law 96–151 mandated the Veterans Administration to conduct a study of the long term health effects on veterans exposed to the variety of phenoxy herbicides used in Vietnam: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 seek the enactment of legislation which would extend service-connection for any identifiable residual disability or disease—scientifically proven to be the result of exposure to the chemical defoliant Agent Orange or any other phenoxy herbicide—incurred by veterans who served in Vietnam.

Resolution No. 262—Legislative

SPECIAL PROTECTION FOR RATINGS OF TOTALLY DISABLED SERVICE-CONNECTED VETERANS AFTER TEN YEARS

Whereas, current law extends a protection of all ratings which have been continuously in effect for a period of 20 years or more; and

Whereas, recent program reviews conducted by the Veterans Administration have resulted in reductions in many ratings; and

Whereas, restoration of a reduced rating through the appellate process can involve months, even years; and

Whereas, a reduction in the benefits of unemployed and totally disabled service-connected veterans can work grave hardships upon these veterans and their families: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, By the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 that Section 110 of Title 38, U.S. Code be amended to allow totally disabled service-connected veterans in receipt of benefits at the 100% rate for a period of 10 years or more to continue to receive benefit payments during the appeal of an initial VA decision which proposes a reduction in the total disability evaluation.

Resolution No. 270—Legislative

ELEVATE THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION TO CABINET LEVEL STATUS

Whereas, the Veterans Administration is now the largest independent agency in the federal government; and

Whereas, the VA operates the largest health care system in the world; and

Whereas, the VA implements programs which have the potential to affect over 28 million living veterans and 66 million dependents and survivors of such veterans: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 seek the enactment of legislation which would elevate the Veterans Administration from an independent agency to a Cabinet level department.

RESOLUTION NO. 271—LEGISLATIVE

SUPPORTING OF A PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE-CONNECTION FOR NON-HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA RESULTING FROM EXPOSURE TO AGENT ORANGE

Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans has taken the position that service-connection should be extended to any identifiable residual disability or disease scientifically proven to be the result of exposure to the chemical defoliant Agent Orange or any other phenoxy herbicide; and

Whereas, the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland, has recently issued a report of a scientific study indicating that Kansas agricultural workers exposed to the phenoxy herbicide 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) have a six-fold above normal incidence of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; and

Whereas, indications of a similar causal relationship between exposure to the phenoxy herbicide 2,4-D and the subsequent development of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma was evidenced in an epidemiological study reported in Sweden in 1979-1981; and

Whereas, 2,4-D is an active ingredient contained in the chemical defoliant Agent Orange: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 support legislation in the Congress which would authorize a presumption of service-connection for the condition of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma arising in veterans who were exposed to the chemical defoliant Agent Orange during service in Vietnam.

RESOLUTION NO. 351—LEGISLATIVE

SEEK RESTORATION OF ENTITLEMENT TO SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN SURVIVORS ENTITLED TO DIC BENEFITS

Whereas, Public Law 97-377 restored Social Security entitlements to children of veterans who died on active duty or of disability resulting from service-incurred disability; and

Whereas, Section 410(b), Title 38, U.S. Code, authorizes the awarding of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation to the survivors of veterans who were continuously rated totally disabled for a period of ten or more years immediately preceding death; and

Whereas, the children of these veterans were previously entitled to Social Security entitlements through their 18th year; and

Whereas, Public Law 97-377 was enacted in order to restore entitlements eliminated by the Omnibus Budget Reconsideration Act: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 seek the enactment of legislation to amend Title 42, U.S. Code, to include those children entitled under Section 410(b), Title 38, U.S. Code.

RESOLUTION NO. 357—LEGISLATIVE

TO AMEND TITLE 38, U.S. CODE, TO AUTHORIZE THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION'S DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS BENEFITS TO ACCEPT GIFTS, DEVICES AND BEQUESTS

Whereas, VA General Counsel has interpreted current law to preclude the acceptance by VA's Department of Veterans Benefits of gifts, bequests, and devices; and

Whereas, as a result of continued budget cuts, the VA's Department of Veterans Benefits' ability to provide quality, timely service to our nation's veteran population has steadily declined; and

Whereas, current law permits the VA's Department of Medicine and Surgery to accept devices, bequests and gifts for the benefit of patients in VA hospitals or homes; and

Whereas, donations made to VA's Department of Medicine and Surgery has enhanced the VA's ability to provide high-quality care for our nation's disabled veterans: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24-28, 1988 seek the enactment of legislation to permit the VA's Department of Veterans Benefits to accept gifts, bequests, and devices designed to enhance VA's Department of Veterans Benefits' ability to provide quality and timely assistance to our nation's veteran population.

RESOLUTION No. 358—LEGISLATIVE

LIBERALIZATION OF LENGTH OF MARRIAGE CRITERIA FOR DIC AWARDS UNDER SECTION 410(b), TITLE 38, U.S. CODE

Whereas, under Section 410(b), Title 38, U.S. Code, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits shall be awarded on a "presumptive basis" to the surviving spouses and minor children of certain veterans who were totally and permanently disabled due to service-connected disability at time of death; and

Whereas, such DIC awards cannot be made to surviving spouses unless they were married to such veterans for not less than two years immediately preceding the veteran's death; and

Whereas, under the length of marriage criteria in Section 404, Title 38, U.S. Code, an award of DIC based upon a VA determination that a service-connected disability was a direct or contributory factor to the cause of death shall be awarded to surviving spouses of veterans dying after December 31, 1956: 1. For any length of marriage if such marriage occurred within 15 years of the termination of the period of service in which the disease or injury causing death was incurred or aggravated; or 2. For any length of marriage if a child was born of/ or before the marriage; or 3. For any marriage one year or more in length; and

Whereas, the length of marriage requirement for DIC awards under Section 410(b), Title 38, U.S. Code, is deemed to be unduly restrictive: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 support legislation that would change the length of marriage criteria for DIC awards under Section 410(b), Title 38, U.S. Code, to bring it in line with that specified in Section 404 of Title 38, U.S. Code.

RESOLUTION No. 359—LEGISLATIVE

LIBERALIZE SERVICE-CONNECTION FOR CHRONIC DISEASES

Whereas, Section 301 of Title 38, U.S. Code, sets forth the various chronic diseases for which a presumption of service-connection may be established; and

Whereas, Section 312(a)(1) of Title 38, U.S. Code, requires a finding of compensable impairment within one year from the date of separation from active duty military service before service-connection may be granted for any of the chronic diseases listed in Section 301; and

Whereas, the list of diseases currently contained in Section 301 have been carefully selected by the Congress so as to only include those diseases which are chronic in nature; and

Whereas, chronic diseases are by their very nature long-term and often insidious impairments; and

Whereas, the current requirement of finding a compensable impairment within one year of the date of separation from active duty wartime service often results in the denial of service-connection for a disease that had its onset during active duty military service: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 seeks the enactment of legislation which would amend Section 312 of Title 38, U.S. Code, to eliminate the provision which predicates service-connection upon the manifestation to a compensable deqree within one year from the date of separation from active duty service for any of the diseases listed in Section 301 of Title 38, U.S. Code.

RESOLUTION No. 360—LEGISLATIVE

TO EXEMPT COMPENSATION AND DIC PAYMENTS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 3113, TITLE 38, U.S. CODE

Whereas, Section 3113, Title 38, U.S. Code, places a limitation on the amount of VA disability compensation and DIC payments that may be received by certain persons who are convicted of felonies and incarcerated in penal institutions; and

Whereas, this is considered by the DAV to be an act of "double jeopardy" providing two separate punishments for a single offense; and

Whereas, there are other categories of federal beneficiaries and annuitants who are allowed to draw full benefits even though they are convicted of felonies and incarcerated in penal institutions: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 support legislation that would exempt VA compensation and DIC payments from the provisions of Section 3113, Title 38, U.S. Code.

RESOLUTION No. 361—LEGISLATIVE

TO EXTEND MILITARY COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES AND SPACE AVAILABLE AIR TRAVEL TO CERTAIN SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS

Whereas, disabled enlisted personnel who were discharged from military service prior to October 1, 1949—the effective date of the Career Compensation Act—are not entitled to disability retirement from the Armed Forces; and

Whereas, many service-connected disabled veterans have been deprived of the various benefits to which all other disabled retired military personnel have enjoyed; and

Whereas, due to inflation, service-connected disabled veterans receiving VA compensation as a sole source of income are experiencing difficulties in keeping pace with the increased cost of living: Now

Therefore, be it resolved, That the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 support legislation which would extend military commissary and exchange privileges, as well as space available air travel aboard military aircraft, to enlisted personnel who were discharged from active military service prior to October 1, 1949 for a service-incurred injury or disease rated by the Veterans Administration as 30% or more disabling and who retained at least a 30% evaluation for a period of five years from the date of separation from active duty.

Commander MURPHY. At this time it gives me great pleasure to introduce Dick J. Cosgriff, President of the DAV National Service Foundation for his report.

Mr. RICHARD J. COSGRIFF. Thank you very much, Commander. Is Bill Leach in the hall?

Commander MURPHY. Yes, over here.

Mr. COSGRIFF. The way they have the lights set up here, we have a few people sitting in the front, and the rest of you we don't even see. So remember that when we are trying to speak.

This is the report of the National Service Foundation as of July 26, which is this morning.

National Commander Murphy, national officers, delegates and distinguished guests all: It is a pleasure to report to you on the progress and the growth of the National Service Foundation which includes the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund.

As president of the Board, I am assisted by such distinguished DAV members as National Commander Gene Murphy, National Adjutant Charles Joeckel, Jr., Past National Commander Cecil Stevenson, the vice-president of the Board; Bill Leach, secretary-treasurer; William McCartin as a trustee and John Sloan as a trustee. I wish to thank these gentlemen for their devotion and assistance to the cause.

William Leach, Cecil Stevenson and Denvel Adams were elected to serve a two-year term on the Board.

Your contributions for 1987 exceeded $354,650. A sizable portion of this amount is credited to the national service officers who informed their clients as to the purposes and the merits of the Service Foundation. Contributions are received daily from departments, chapters and auxilliary units, and from you the members.

Our total assets as of June 30, 1988, has reached a total of $4,643,466. This represents an increase of $670,000 since our meeting last year in Atlanta, Georgia.

We also approved expenditures of $130,000 to modernize the national service offices around the country with furniture and equipment. And we appropriated an additional $100,000 for this year.

All of our funds are currently invested in the Trust Division of the Fifth Third Bank of Cincinnati. Earnings on investments this past year amounted to 9.16 percent.

The annual audit covers a period from January 1st through December 31st, 1987. It has been completed by Deloitte Haskins and Sells and will be published in the official records of this convention.

The National Order of Trench Rats' contribution last year increased our total Legislative Fund to $158,213. The interest of this fund is annually turned over to the national organization.

And at this time we would like to present a check of $14,492.31 to the national commander to help carry out the small token as far as the expense of the legislative program, but it's a small token to help in this expense under the legislative program under the direction of Rick Heilman and his staff.

Commander, at this time I present you this check. [Applause.]

I hope you all take the time to review the booklet of the Honor Roll of Benefactors of Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund that was in your convention packet, because if you recall from the last three or four years now, we published this, and this is in the convention packet every year. We feel it's circulated better this way because it's a complete list.

This reminds us of many deceased members that you have all worked with in national conventions over the years. Because these men saw a need to perpetuate the service program through the foundation, their names will live in the history of this great service organization.

It is our goal to have every department, chapter and unit listed in the perpetual honor roll. And we do appreciate your active help in obtaining this goal.

The members of the Board wish to extend their personal gratitude to Assistant National Adjutant Tom Dehne and Judge Advocate Bonnie Maile. They would also like to recognize and thank Sandy Buchanan, Nancy O'Brien, Kay Redman and Mary Ann Pflum at the Cincinnati headquarters, and Daryl Richardson of the Washington, D.C. headquarters. These ladies lend their support and assistance to our endeavors, and their help is sincerely appreciated. They are the ones that keep the records so that we can present it to you.

Our Service Foundation Awards Program recognizes the departments, chapters and individuals whose contributions represent outstanding levels of support since our last report. And at this time I'd like to call on John Charlton. He has a list of those.

I think, John, as you read these—as your name is called, if you are in the audience, there's a few of them, last year if you recall there was quite a list. This year, of course, it's much smaller, but we certainly appreciate adding to the growing list of contributors. It represents outstanding levels of support to the Foundation and to the organization. And, John, will you please read those at this time?

Mr. JOHN CHARLTON. Thank you, Mr. Cosgriff. We would ask those that are receiving the awards on behalf of the chapter or department to stop by Sandy Buchanan to give her your name for the record.

The first awards are the Judge John B. McClernan Medal. The first award is presented to California chapter number 70.

While he's coming up, will a representative of California chapter 73 please come forward.

Mr. THOMAS F. DURBIN. Thank you.

Mr. CHARLTON. The third medal goes to the department of South Dakota, if the representative from the department of South Dakota will make his way up.

Is there a representative of South Dakota present?

Commander MURPHY. Oh, yes, right here. [Laughter.]

Mr. CHARLTON. Next is the Judge John B. McClernan Award and Plaque Awards. The first recipient is the department of New Hampshire; DAV chapter number 1, Minneapolis; DAV chapter 41, Portsmouth, Virginia; DAV chapter number 84, Holly Hill, Florida. If representatives from those chapters will come up. These plaques represent a $3,000 donation.

Mr. COSGRIFF. The department of New Hampshire wants to present a check for $1,000 to pay for the plaque. Thank you very much, sir.

Mr. CHARLTON. Delegates, these four people represent a $12,000 donation to the National Service Foundation. I think that deserves an applause. [Applause.]

The next recipients are the Grand Memorial Honor Roll, and each of these awards represents a $5,000 donation to the National Service Foundation.

The following please come forward to receive their awards. The department of Colorado; department of Oklahoma; department of Rhode Island; Blind Veterans National Chapter number 1; Arthur Mouchou, chapter number 1, South Dakota.

And the department of Colorado also is eligible for its first star on the bronze casting of the Memorial Honor Roll that is on the wall of the National Service Legislative headquarters in Washington. [Applause.]

The Blind Chapter has already accepted their award, Mr. Chairman.

The next awards are the Grand Memorial Honor Roll of Distinguished Donor Star Awards. Each of these awards represents a minimum donation of $10,000. In some instances they have exceeded the $10,000, and I will read the amounts.

Department of Colorado, $10,000; department of Florida, $10,000; department of Illinois, $10,000; department of Maryland, 10, 25 and $50,000; department of Minnesota, $10,000 and $25,000.

Department of New Mexico, 10,000; department of Ohio, 10,000; Birmingham chapter number 4, Alabama, 10,000; Phoenix chapter number 1, Arizona, 10,000 and 25,000; Glendale chapter number 20, Arizona, 10,000; Homer Blevins chapter number 1, California,

$10,000; San Diego chapter number 2, $10,000, 25,000 and $50,000; San Francisco chapter number 3, California, $10,000; Alhambra chapter number 22, California, $10,000; St. Louis chapter number 1, Missouri, $10,000; Ernestine Shoeman Hank, chapter number 2, Missouri, $10,000 and $25,000; Joseph E. Sears and chapter number 5, Texas, $10,000.

If that doesn't get you excited, I don't know what will turn you on. [Applause.]

While Mr. Cosgriff continues to hand these out, these people picking up these awards represent a total donation to the National Service Foundation of $395,000. [Applause.]

We will have a temporary pause while our photographer reloads his camera.

Mr. **Cosgriff**. I think we owe John a big hand for handling this presentation for us. [Applause.]

My closing remarks on the end of my report is that if there's anyone who would like to help us pay for these plaques, that this would be the time to make the presentations. You can come in over to this area here, and I have a few with me to read.

I would like at this time to recognize Butch Joeckel for the purpose of a presentation.

Adjutant **Joeckel**. Thank you, Dick. I am sure all the delegates here know who this next gentleman is. A good friend of the DAV who has visited every VA hospital in the United States, American League umpire Larry Barnett asked me to make the following presentation.

In the name of Denvel D. Adams, a donation of $1,000. [Applause.]

Mr. **Cosgriff**. Thank Larry Barnett for us. I would like to recognize now National Commander Gene Murphy.

Commander **Murphy**. Thank you, Dick. I would like to donate $100 on behalf of the Fourth Infantry Division, my unit in Vietnam. [Applause.]

Mr. **Cosgriff**. Thank you, Commander. I have a couple here to read off. I have a couple here to read off. This is from Wesley and Joan Christensen from California, chapter 2, for $250. From Walter Hyle, Jr., in Baltimore, Maryland, $100. Barry Holliday, a $100 bill. Thank you very much.

Billy Kirby, $100, on behalf of the great membership we have in the state of Texas. [Applause.]

Member. On behalf of Kenny Musselmann, a donation of $100, past national commander. On behalf of Disabled American Veterans, Fresno, a check for $5,000.

Member. $87.25, for Tony Jursnic, Butte, Montana, which brings him up to a total of $1,000. Another one here for $100 from Judge John B. McClernan of Butte, Montanta, the father of the PRF.

Mr. **Craig W. Fisher**. Craig Fisher, past department commander from Minnesota donates $340 on behalf of the Minnesota past department commanders and auxilliary commanders.

Mr. **Lee H. Oates**. Lee Oates, Minneapolis chapter number 1, check for $10,000.

Mr. **Cosgriff**. You all heard him correctly. It's $10,000.

Member. On behalf of the department of Minnesota, $2,045.

Mr. **Cosgriff**. $2,045.

Mr. James C. Tillman, Jr. I'd like to honor P.D. Jackson: one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven. P.D. Jackson was number 11 chapter in Dallas, Texas. That's in his honor. And also from number 2, Brother Rat, in my honor. Thank you, Comrades, for listening. [Applause.]

Member. NOTR, 429, state of Colorado, $100.

Member. Personal check of $100 from past national commander and California's great adjutant Denny Joyner.

Also a personal check from myself, $100.

Member. Mr. Chairman, here is $100 for our late friend P.D. Jackson.

Member. Dick, in behalf of the DAV department of Pennsylvania, and our officers and members, I present to you a check in the amount of $2,500.

Mr. Cosgriff. This is two $100 bills that he didn't get a chance to spend. He's going to donate it to us.

Member. I'm Sam Pannell, commander of the D.C. department. I'd like to present the following donations: Federal chapter 1, $100; National chapter 2, $100; Charles Young chapter 3, $100, King Club chapter 4, $100; Ray chapter 5, $100, National Service number 9, $100; Dorey Miller chapter 14, $100; Capitol Hill chapter 16, $100.

Mr. Cosgriff. That's a total of $800. Thank you.

Member. Comrade National Commander, Comrade Chairman: On behalf of the Comrades chapter 2, San Diego, California, that magnificent state, we present a check of $6,000.

Member. Department of Missouri, $500.

Mr. Thomas Mizell. I'm Tommy Mizill, department of Virginia, chapter number 41. It's a pleasure to present another $1,000.

Mr. Cosgriff. Thank you.

Member. Chapter 19 in Danville, Virginia, would like to contribute $500 to the National Service Foundation on behalf of the finest national service office staff in Roanoke, Virginia.

Mr. Cosgriff. Thank you very much. Thank you.

Member. Fallen Vietnam Vets chapter 14, Salem, Virginia, would like to present a check in the amount of $250 in honor of Mr. Alan T. Davis, chapter service officer, North Port, Virginia, chapter 4. Mr. Davis has given many hours of service to the veterans in his community despite his own disability, and he's very deserving of this tribute.

Mr. Cosgriff. Thank you very much, sir.

Member. On behalf of chapter 8, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, $250.

Mr. Cosgriff. Thank you very much, sir.

Member. Pacheco Chapter 79, department of California, $100.

Member. King Clark, Chapter 4, Washington, D.C., $100.

Member. On behalf of the deceased members of California Long Beach chapter number 17, we would like to donate $300.

Mr. Cosgriff. Thank you.

Mr. John Rodriguez. John Rodriguez, NEC, on behalf of the 6th district, $500.

Mr. Angel J. Velazquez. Angel Velazquez, department commander from Puerto Rico, a check for $500.

Mr. Cosgriff. Thank you, Angel.

Mr. Manuel Velazquez. Manuel Velazquez, commander and past commander, chapter in San Juan, I have a pledge here for $500 on behalf of the chapter.

Mr. Cosgriff. Thank you.

Ms. Mollye Z. Harris. Chapter 13, Van Nuys, California, gave $1600 previously, and this is an additional check of $300 for a new total of $1900 in memory of our departed comrades. Mollye Harris, senior vice-commander.

Mr. Cosgriff. Thank you.

Member. Dick, Mr. President, I have a check for $100 from the National Order of Trench Rats, and it is for our departed brothers of Dugout 65 California.

I also have a check for you for $100 in memory of our daughter Sherry Tenen.

Dick, Mr. President, I have a $100 bill, and I believe that late yesterday here on the podium, we had the VA administrator who used this platform for political reasons. He was afraid that he was going to lose his job. So I'm going to put him in the hole for $100.

Mr. E. Allen Litton. Allen Litton, commander of the department of Mississippi, would like to present a check for $1,000.

Mr. Cosgriff. Thank you, sir. Thank you very much.

Member. On behalf of Spencer H. Dawson, chapter number 11, Jackson, Mississippi, $1,000.

Member. On behalf of chapter 70, Esposito, California, a check for $150.

Mr. Cosgriff. Thank you.

Member. The National Blind Chapter is very proud to give $250. And we thank you so very much for your donations and your generosity that keeps us alive. Thank you.

Member. On behalf of the department of South Dakota, $1,000.

Member. Here is a $500 donation to the DAV National Service Foundation presented in behalf of Rapid City, chapter 3, South Dakota. That is South Dakota, and our very own National Commander Gene A. Murphy.

Member. Department of New Mexico, check for $1,500.

Mr. Cosgriff. Thank you very much.

Member. The department of Nevada, $100.

Member. Black Mountain, chapter 12, Henderson, Nevada, $100.

Mr. Cosgriff. You notice the Inspector General doesn't even give us a chance to get the check warm. He takes it right out of our hand.

Mr. John A. Gallene. John A. Gallene, department commander, from the great state, the Garden State of New Jersey. It's a pleasure and an honor to present this check this morning on behalf of all our 32,000 members, the amount of $10,000. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr. John T. Griffin. John Griffin, representing the great state of Michigan, presents this check to you for $2,500. On behalf of our National Judge Advocate Boniface Maile, a check for $100.

Mr. Cosgriff. Thank you very much. I might add that Boniface Maile wouldn't give us that $100 unless I joined as a life member in Michigan.

Member. National Order of Trench Rats Dugout 325, Wichita, Kansas, $100. Disabled American Veterans, Wichita chapter number 4, $150. Disabled American Veterans, Thrift Stores, Incorporated, Wichita, Kansas, $1,000. These are in memory of our departed comrades.

Mr. COSGRIFF. Thank you very much, sir. Thank you.

Mr. EDWIN A. HORNBY. Ed Hornby, 1st junior vice, department of Virginia, my department commander Sloan Hoopes, both of chapter 3, Roanoke, Virginia.

On behalf of chapter 3, H. H. McKinsey, we would like to donate $1,000 to the honor of our service officer in Roanoke who does a hell of a job for our boys.

Mr. COSGRIFF. Thank you very much. Thank you.

MEMBER. Department of Wyoming proudly presents $100.

Mr. FORREST KIDWELL. I'm Forrest Kidwell from chapter 91, Pinellas Park, $100 in memory of one of our past chapter commanders.

Mr. COSGRIFF. Thank you.

Mr. DANIEL P. STACK. Dan Stack, department commander from the biggest little state in the union, Rhode Island, a check in behalf of our department for $2,500.

Mr. COSGRIFF. Thank you, sir. Thank you very much.

MEMBER. Chapter 9, Houston, Texas, in honor of Denvel Adams, $200.

MEMBER. Mr. Commander, chapter number 4, New Hampton, New Hampshire, $300.

I'd like to give $100 as department commander of New Hampshire, the ninth state to ratify the Constitution that made this nation. Thank you.

Mr. COSGRIFF. Thank you very much.

Mr. ELMER L. WEST. Mr. Chairman, I'm Elmer West, senior vice commander, Pinellas Park 91, would like to donate a check for $100 in memory of Chester A. Smith.

Mr. COSGRIFF. Thank you.

Mr. ROBERT A. MELCHER. Mr. Chairman, Bob Melcher, commander, chapter 91, Pinellas Park, Florida, in memory of one of our past commanders, Mr. Rick Amlott. I would like to give you this check for $100.

Mr. CHARLES J. CUMMINGS. Chuck Cummings, Liberty Bell chapter, number 96, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, $100.

Mr. ALFRED CLARK. I'm Alfred Clark, commander of Ernestine Schumann, chapter 2, Kansas City, Missouri, pledges donates $1500.

Mr. COSGRIFF. Thank you.

Mr. JOSEPH J. SCHMIDT. I'm Joe Schmidt, commander of the department of Colorado. I have one check here for $10,000 that the department is donating to the National Service Foundation. [Applause.]

Mr. COSGRIFF. You heard him right. It's for $10,000.

MEMBER. Chapter 7, Mobile, Alabama, $1,000.

MEMBER. Chapter number 5, Mississippi, 300, and 100 for my wife and I.

MEMBER. On behalf of the state of South Dakota, chapter number 1, home chapter of National Commander Gene Murphy, $1,000.

Mr. COSGRIFF. Thank you very much.

Member. Stevenson County, DAV chapter number 85 in the state of Illinois, would like to present the National Foundation the sum of $500.

Mr. **Cosgriff.** Thank you.

Mr. **Jack Hilleboe.** Jack Hilleboe, 14th district, NEC. At our caucus Saturday, HiramFuller passed the hat, and we are glad to have gotten $135.

Mr. **George Carlucci.** Good morning. George Carlucci, commander of Vermont, $100 from DAV chapter 15, in memory of John Cleveland, and $500 from the state.

Mr. **Cosgriff.** Thank you very much, sir.

Mr. **Warren B. Lone.** Warren Lone, supreme Southern gentleman from the Southern caucus, would like to present $100 from the Southern caucus.

Member. Tri-City chapter number 95, Oceanside in California, $100, from me in remembrance of my two cousins who gave their lives in World War II, a third cousin who gave his life in the Korean conflict. $100.

Member. I have a check here from Dugout 285, in memory of Paul Law, $100.

Mr. **Cosgriff.** Thank you. I appreciate it.

Member. Chapter 17, Jefferson City, Missouri, $100. And a personal check from Stan Pealer, past national commander, $100.

Member. Mr. Chairman, the department of Massachusetts renders this check for $2,000.

Mr. **Cosgriff.** Thank you.

Mr. **Cardosi.** It's always a pleasure to follow the department of Massachusetts. I have a donation of $100.

Mr. **Dwight H. Marshall.** Dwight Marshall, department of Delaware, make our annual donation in the name of our two immediate past department commanders, Charles N. DePrisco, Jr., Ralph W. Fosca, Jr.

Member. P. G. Coop would like to donate $100 in honor of past national commander Alfred English.

Mr. **Cosgriff.** Thank you. Past national commander Al English, who passed away this past year, was a member of this board for several years.

Mr. **John F. Houston.** John Houston, commander of the state of Indiana. I know this isn't very much, $20. But every little bit helps.

Mr. **Cosgriff.** Right. Every little bit helps.

Mr. **Wayne McClung.** Wayne McClung from Ohio, in memory of my wife Janet, who was a past auxiliary commander of Ohio. I present this check to the Foundation for $2500. [Applause.]

Member. I would like to present this check for chapter 19, Lakewood, California, the Kenney G. Musselmann chapter, $100.

Member. For the Lifer's Club of Colorado, I have a check for $637.76, compliments of this club, without a constitution or bylaws, originated by World War I veterans to develop and enhance the life membership of the DAV and our department.

We have continued, and four years ago they decided they would take up a collection at each of our annual meetings. And with this check, I believe we have gone over 2500.

Originally the money was meant for Sam D. Hills but we haven't been able to find him, so we give it to you.

Mr. Cosgriff. Thank you very much.

Member. Mr. Cosgriff, $100, in behalf of the National Service Office, Denver, Colorado.

Mr. Delbert Nelson. Delbert Nelson, from the great state of Minnesota, 100 bucks.

Mr. Lewis Snowbeck: Lew Snowbeck, Minneapolis chapter number 1, 100 bucks.

Member. Chapter 1, Baltimore, Maryland, $200.

Mr. Cosgriff. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Eldon O. Wilhelm. Eldon Wilhelm, commander chapter 7, $200, in memory of two of our hard workers, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Mr. David Dannenberg. David Dannenberg, chapter 22 in Scottsdale, Arizona, $100.

Mr. Herman Brown. Herbert L. Brown, chapter 1, St. Louis, Missouri, presents this check in the amount of $1,000.

Mr. Cosgriff. Thank you.

Mr. Walter H. Wessing. Walter Wessing, chapter 2, Kansas City, Missouri, Ernestine, $20 in memory of past commanders in that chapter.

Member. $210, Wisconsin.

Mr. Cosgriff. $210.

Member. Chapter 32, $200.

Mr. Cosgriff. Here comes the poker money.

Mr. Norman B. Hartnett. Representing Nevada, chapter number 11, the gambling capital of the world, and on behalf of those guys who still inspire to play poker and don't do it very well, $100 from Gabby Hartnett.

Mr. Cosgriff. Thank you, Gabby. At this point, without any contribution from the Trench Rats yet, we have $82,320.76. And that's a tremendous amount of money. [Applause.]

You know, as John just announced, this is less than 30 minutes' work, $82,320. Thank you very much. Commander, this completes our report. [Applause.]

Commander Murphy. Thank you very much, Dick. At this time the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the report. Mike 3.

Mr. Pedro H. Doblado, Jr. Pete Doblado, Downey, California. I second the motion.

Commander Murphy. Mike 3.

Mr. Doblado. Pete Doblado, Downey, California, district 16, chapter 156, second the motion. I make the motion, sir.

Commander Murphy. Okay, you make the motion. Do I have a second? Mike 2.

Mr. Carlton Poling. Carlton Poling, commander, Tri-City chapter 95, North San Diego County, seconds the motion.

Commander Murphy. Thank you. Discussion. All in favor say Aye. All against say Nay. So moved.

[The above-mentioned report follows:]

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

Financial Statements and Auditors' Opinion for the Years Ended December 31, 1987 and 1986

Deloitte
Haskins+Sells

Ten Broadway
Saint Louis, Missouri 63102-1791
(314) 231-1123
ITT Telex: 4995648

AUDITORS' OPINION

Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation:

We have examined the balance sheets of the Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation as of December 31, 1987 and 1986 and the related statements of support, revenue, and expenses and changes in fund balances and statements of changes in financial position for the years then ended. Our examinations were made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, such financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Foundation at December 31, 1987 and 1986 and the results of its operations and the changes in its fund balances for the years then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis.

Our examinations were made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental schedule of functional expenses for the years ending December 31, 1987 and 1986 (page 7) is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such supplemental schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the examination of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Deloitte Haskins & Sells

April 4, 1988

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

BALANCE SHEETS
DECEMBER 31, 1987 AND 1986

ASSETS	NOTES	1987	1986
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Cash		$ 12,230	$ 21,535
Land payment receivable	3	5,959	3,600
Interest receivable		85,299	92,236
Prepaid expenses		650	162
Total current assets		104,138	117,533
INVESTMENTS:			
Marketable securities held for long-term investment purposes - At cost	4	4,256,007	3,616,681
Land		2,200	2,200
Total		4,258,207	3,618,881
NOTE RECEIVABLE	3	77,664	103,624
OFFICE EQUIPMENT - net of accumulated depreciation of $1,556 in 1987 and $1,349 in 1986	2	519	726
TOTAL ASSETS		$4,440,528	$3,840,764
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES:			
Accrued transfer - NSO program		$ 130,000	
Due to D.A.V., Inc.		11,374	$ 26,244
Other liabilities		1,794	21,834
Total current liabilities		143,168	48,078
FUND BALANCES:			
Restricted Fund Balance - National Order of Trench Rats, D.A.V. Legislative Program	2	118,428	118,428
Unrestricted Fund Balances:			
General		1,250,950	1,063,605
Board Designated - Perpetual Rehab Fund	2	2,927,982	2,610,653
Total unrestricted fund balances		4,178,932	3,674,258
Total fund balances		4,297,360	3,792,686
TOTAL		$4,440,528	$3,840,764

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT, REVENUE, AND EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1987 AND 1986

	1987				1986			
		NATIONAL ORDER OF TRENCH RATS (Restricted)				NATIONAL ORDER OF TRENCH RATS (Restricted)		
	GENERAL FUND (Unrestricted)	PRINCIPAL	INCOME	TOTAL ALL FUNDS	GENERAL FUND (Unrestricted)	PRINCIPAL	INCOME	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUES -								
Public support - contributions and bequests	$ 317,329			$ 317,329	$ 365,551			$ 365,551
Revenues:								
Interest income	366,682		$ 11,374	378,056	348,582		$ 12,447	361,029
Net realized gain on investment transactions	818			818	11,756			11,756
Total revenues	367,500		11,374	378,874	360,338		12,447	372,785
Total public support and revenues	684,829		11,374	696,203	725,889		12,447	738,336
EXPENSES AND TRANSFERS:								
Supporting services:								
Management and general	30,007			30,007	90,774			90,774
Transfers to D.A.V. National Headquarters	140,148		11,374	151,522	25,000		12,447	37,447
Transfers to Charitable Trust	10,000			10,000				
Total expenses and transfers	180,155		11,374	191,529	115,774		12,447	128,221
Excess of public support and revenues over expenses and transfers	504,674			504,674	610,115			610,115
Fund balances, beginning of year	3,674,258	$118,428		3,792,686	3,064,143	$118,428		3,182,571
Fund balances, end of year	$4,178,932	$118,428	$	$4,297,360	$3,674,258	$118,428	$	$3,792,686

See notes to financial statements.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1987 AND 1986

	1987	1986
SOURCES OF CASH:		
Excess of public support and revenues over expenses and transfers	$ 504,674	$ 610,115
Add items included in operations not requiring (providing) cash:		
Depreciation	208	208
Amortization of bond premium (discount)	12,852	5,212
Net realized gain on securities transactions	(818)	(11,756)
Cash provided from operations	516,916	603,779
Proceeds on disposition of investments	1,132,187	3,842,277
Increase in due to D.A.V., Inc.		12,447
Decrease in prepaid expenses		195
Decrease in accrued interest	6,937	
Decrease in notes receivable	25,960	23,599
Increase in accrued liabilities	109,959	20,579
Total	1,791,959	4,502,876
USES OF CASH:		
Purchases of securities	1,783,547	4,444,630
Increase in land payment receivable	2,360	2,146
Increase in prepaid expenses	487	
Increase in accrued interest		11,315
Decrease in accounts payable		33,066
Decrease in due to D.A.V., Inc.	14,870	
Total	1,801,264	4,491,157
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	(9,305)	11,719
BEGINNING CASH BALANCE	21,535	9,816
ENDING CASH BALANCE	$ 12,230	$ 21,535

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1987 AND 1986

1. NATURE OF OPERATIONS

The Disabled American Veterans National Service Foundation (Foundation) is the incorporated trustee for the Disabled American Veterans, Inc. as set forth in paragraph 3 of the Certificate of Incorporation of the Foundation which reads as follows:

"The particular business and objects of this organization are to act as trustee for the Congressionally recognized organization, composed of wounded, gassed, injured and disabled ex-servicemen, known as the Disabled American Veterans, Inc. for all such monies, funds and property as may be derived or acquired by it or by this corporation on behalf of the Disabled American Veterans as proceeds from any and all bequests, donations, subscriptions or contributions, and to supervise the custody and the investment or reinvestment of such funds and supervise control and direct the expenditures by the Disabled American Veterans of the principal and income derived from such funds, to the end that such principal and income shall be expended for and by the Disabled American Veterans."

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Foundation uses the accrual method of accounting.

Donated assets are recorded at their fair market value at the time of the donation. All contributions and bequests to the Foundation are designated by the Board of Directors (the "Board") for permanent investment in the Perpetual Rehab Fund as a reserve for future needs. Investment income derived from these invested funds is used for current operation of the Foundation or appropriated for use by the Disabled American Veterans, Inc. Revenues of the National Order of Trench Rats D.A.V. Legislative Program Fund are restricted for use by the Disabled American Veterans' Legislative Program.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line method over the estimated useful life of long-lived assets.

3. NOTE RECEIVABLE

On December 3, 1984, the Foundation sold land for its carrying value of $200,000. Proceeds of the sale were in the form of a 10% mortgage note receivable for $130,000 due in annual installments of $14,322 commencing December 3, 1985 (concluding on December 3, 2009). The second and third payments on the mortgage note were received in December 1986 and 1987, respectively. These payments consisted of $12,868 of interest income and $1,454 of principal for 1986 and $10,762 of interest income and $3,560 of principal for 1987. With the second and third payment, an additional $20,000 was paid and applied towards the principal.

4. MARKETABLE SECURITIES

Marketable securities consist of the following at December 31, 1987 and 1986:

	..........1987........		.........1986.........	
	Cost	Market Value	Cost	Market Value
Cash Equivalents	$ 941,455	$ 941,455	$ 238,242	$ 238,242
Corporate Bonds	810,509	805,084	653,455	707,479
Federal Bonds	2,504,043	2,591,414	2,724,984	2,977,979
Total	$4,256,007	$4,337,953	$3,616,681	$3,923,700

Aggregate unrealized gains and losses related to marketable securities at December 31, 1987 and 1986 are as follows:

	1987	1986
Gains	$ 87,371	$307,191
Losses	(5,425)	(172)
Net unrealized gain	$ 81,946	$307,019

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1987 AND 1986

	SUPPORTING SERVICES	
	1987	1986
Travel and related expenses	$14,214	$17,549
Insurance	200	195
Depreciation	208	208
Professional services	5,250	6,000
Printing, postage and supplies	2,484	58,842
Secretarial services	1,300	1,300
Taxes and registration fees	113	77
Investment trustee fees	6,872	6,066
Miscellaneous	(634)	537
TOTAL	$30,007	$90,774

Commander MURPHY. At this time I'd like to introduce our national adjutant, Butch Joeckel. [Applause.]

Adjutant JOECKEL. I think the Foundation has got enough money to pay for their plaques.

Every now and then, we are lucky, in a way, that someone comes forward and gives their time in public service in the federal government. And every now and then that public servant is one we wish we had back, who has done, I think, a magnificent job, and remains our friend, even though he no longer serves in the capacity of Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

Will you please join me in welcoming the former Administrator of Veterans Affairs, a friend of the DAV, Harry Walters. [Rising applause.]

Mr. HARRY WALTERS. Thank you for your warm reception. Commander Murphy, Mr. Joeckel, fellow veterans, members of the ladies' auxiliary: There's probably nothing worse than a used-to-be anything coming back to say hello.

It reminds me of a story of a wealthy businessman who made ten million dollars in three years. After the three years was up, he decided he was going to do something he had never been able to do before that he always wanted to do, and he wanted to take a mistress. And so he did.

And after two years of a marvelous relationship with his mistress, he finally wanted do one other thing. He turned to her one day and he asked the magic question. He said, "If I lost all my money, would you still love me?"

And she very thoughtfully pondered the answer to that question. And finally, after several minutes of deliberation, with great affection in her eyes, and lovingly, she turned to him and said, "If you lost every nickel you ever had, I would still love you—miss you, but love you." [Laughter.]

I am totally unprepared to make any comments. I just wanted to come down and say hello to my many friends in the DAV, and I had the opportunity to do that, and had dinner with Mr. Joeckel and Mr. Adams last evening. I was not prepared to make comments this morning.

But I want to leave you with a thought. I understand it is a political season. I know this is not a political convention, believe me.

One thing, clearly, that has to be for this veteran, in our next president, or in any presidents, is that he must be, or she, must be an advocate for the veterans of the United States of America. [Applause.]

That litmus test must be applied to every candidate—race, color or creed makes no difference—because, in fact—and I am closing with this, as you might remember, a little sticker I put together when I came to the VA, and I carry it with me all the time, because it's true. America is number 1, thanks to you, our veterans.

Good luck to you. God bless you in your convention. [Applause.]

Commander MURPHY. Thank you very much, Mr. Walters.

At this time we would like to call on Joe Harold, chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for their final report.

Mr. MIKE GODICH, Jr. Comrade Commander. I rise to a point of order.

Commander MURPHY. Go ahead.

Mr. GODICH. My name is Mike Godich, Jr., delegate from McKeesport chapter number 52, McKeesport, Pennsylvania.

According to our Constitution and Bylaws, Paragraph 17.4, amendments of bylaws: These Bylaws may be amended at any National Convention by a vote of two-thirds of the total accredited delegates assembled, provided that that proposed amendment shall have been read to the Convention at least one calendar day before they are voted upon.

Also, the most-quoted book and the least-read book is Robert's Rules of Order, Paragraph 47, page 201. Votes that are null and void even if unanimous. No motion is in order that conflicts with the laws of the nation or the state, or with the assembly's constitution and bylaws. If such a motion is adopted, even by unanimous vote, it is null and void.

My purpose for making this thing is not for personal glory, but to have quality in the organization, and that they see that we live by the bylaws that are printed in our books.

Expediency is no excuse for not complying with the bylaws. The chairman at that time, he said with unanimous consent from the body, or no objections, I will not read the articles because they are too long, which taints that proposition.

It is my contention, because he did not comply with the bylaws, he should take those articles which were not read in their entirety to this body for the first reading, either declare them a first reading today, or eliminate them from the second reading.

Commander MURPHY. But, sir, we had unanimous consent when he reported yesterday. We will go on with the Constitution and Bylaws.

Mr. GODICH. But Comrade Commander, we are——

Commander MURPHY. You are out of order, sir.

Mr. JOSEPH HAROLD. Comrade Commander, a point of order. I will read them word for word as we are supposed to do today. I told you that I was briefing some of them yesterday, the long ones, that they were going to be in print, that you would have at least an hour to read them.

Now I hope you have had an hour to read these. And I will read them word for word according to the Constitution.

Mr. GODICH. In other words, Commander, you are saying that Robert's Rules of Order do not apply?

Mr. HAROLD. Robert's Rules of Order do not apply in this case because we are governed by our own Constitution.

Mr. GODICH. Because it says Robert's Rules of Order says anything written in the Constitution you might abide by them. If you do not—Comrade Commander, we are going to pass an important article at this convention.

Commander MURPHY. Sir, you are out of order. Will you please sit down. Thank you. Go ahead, Chairman.

Mr. HAROLD. Thank you, Commander. This is the final report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. And as I advised you yesterday, there would be no amendments that would be accepted today, that we would vote for these as they are printed today, and no amendments.

Before I start, I would like to explain to you that most of these things are housekeeping changes. And I will try to explain in detail before you vote on each one of these resolutions.

Just so you know, the interim committee did meet, and that consists of Stan Pealer, past national commander; Ed Galian, past national commander; Richard Marbes, state adjutant of Wisconsin; and myself.

And at various times during the meetings we had, we had a national adjutant, Butch Joeckel, and our former national adjutant Dale Adams in at different times. We had Bonnie Maile was in to give us help. We had Fred Bristol, a past national assistant adjutant. We had Tom Dehne, Billy Kirby, and I hope I haven't forgotten any other names.

Also, we had Steven Edmiston of the Washington office who was there with us.

And to show you that a lot of work has been put into this, this consists of ten pages, and there are 20,000 copies that had to be made for this.

And I want to thank the secretaries in the National Service Office who helped put this thing together. It wasn't something done just by three or four men. It was a whole group that did it.

Now, on the Committee Constitution and Bylaws, I am going to read the names of the people so you know who participated in it. And some of these people have some knowledge of these bylaws.

District 1 was Joseph Harold, and John Gilpin was the alternate. District 2 was Edward Galian, past national commander, and Prince Hamilton. District 3, department adjutant of New Hampshire, Howard Hurd, and Michael Lassonde.

District 4 was Albert Fanslau of New Jersey and William Meredith of Delaware. District 5 was Bud Pedersen of Pennsylvania, and Alfred Brodeur of Pennsylvania.

District 6 is William McCartin of Maryland and and James Stewart of Maryland.

District 7 was John McCarthy, a former national service officer, from Florida, and Jimmy Meeks.

District 8 was Edwin Floyd of Alabama and J. D. McLarty of Alabama. District 9 was the department commander of Georgia, William Head, and the alternate was E. T. Townsend.

District 10 was Ed Mecher from Michigan and Fred Bristol, who was also advisor to the committee.

And District 11 was John Tablac of Ohio with David Helton.

District 12 was Frank Rogala—it should be R-O-G-A-L-A, of Wisconsin, and Gene Rinken of Illinois. District 13 was Ken Wolfe of Indiana and Charlie Ward of Kentucky. District 14 was Frank Branaugh of South Dakota and Jamie Thompson of South Dakota.

District 15 was Stan Pealer, past national commander and state adjutant of Missouri, and Gabe Russo.

We have past national commander from California, Ken Musselmann, and Jack Tenen from California.

District 17 was Stan Miller of New Mexico and Kenneth Warr from New Mexico. District 18 was George Egel of Arizona and Vernon Gibbons of Arizona. District 19 was Richard Lucht of Oregon and David Dunn of Washington.

District 20 was the judge advocate for the department of Texas, I believe, Richard Sarrazin, who was elected the secretary of the committee, and the alternate was Louis Walls of Texas.

District 21 was Paul Freeman of Oklahoma, and the alternate was Mickey Vaughn of Oklahoma.

I read those names first so you could see who it was that approved of these resolutions that I am going to read to you, and the vote was unanimous.

Now, so that we don't get into a conflict here, I am going to ask for your indulgence with me. We have approximately 28 or 30 resolutions. I haven't got the exact count.

If we were going to take and, after each resolution, move the adoption and have a second and have a vote on it, it could take quite awhile. If I could have your authority or whatever you want to give me without any hassle, I will read the resolution. And if there's no objection to the resolution, then we can pass it. And then when I am finished we can adopt the report of the committee.

Resolution number 2. Be it resolved that Article 6, Section 6.5, paragraph 1(a), page 21, be amended by adding after the last sentence the following: The State Commander may also direct that any funds deposited in financial institutions in the name of the chapter be frozen during the period of suspension.

The purpose of this—and also it's in resolution number 3, one is for the state commander, and resolution number 3 where it says "he," means the national commander. The purpose of this is that these chapters are now being—some chapters are being suspended. And during the period of suspension, they are not supposed to be taking any money out of the bank. But they have been going down to the bank and taking the money out.

And the national organization, the state organization, can't direct the financial institutions to freeze those funds because we don't have the authority. But if we amend both these sections here, we are attempting to get authority to go to the bank to freeze that money until such time as the question is settled on the suspension.

And you must remember this, that any money that the chapters have, if any—if the chapter goes under, then the money reverts to the state and doesn't revert to the national organization. So the national organization would not get any money from this under any circumstances.

So if there's no objection on resolution number 2, can I do that, just pass over it, without making a motion? If no objection, it's passed.

Commander **Murphy**. What's the wish of the body? Mike 2.

Mr. **Richard Sarrazin**. Dick Sarrazin, chapter 5. I would recommend that we read them all, and then if somebody wants one set aside, set it aside and adopt them in toto at the end, in the interest of time.

Commander **Murphy**. Is that a motion, sir?

Mr. **Sarrazin**. That's a motion.

Commander **Murphy**. We have a motion. Do we have a second? Mike 1.

Mr. **Stan Pealer**. Stan Pealer, past national commander, department of Missouri. I second the motion.

Commander **Murphy**. On the motion. Any discussion? All in favor say Aye. All against say Nay. So moved.

Mr. **Harold**. Thank you. We are just trying to save time. Resolution number 3 is the same as resolution number 2 except one is the state commander. If you look at the paragraph above this one in your book, it means the national commander. So resolution number 3 would be passed if there's no objection.

Resolution number 4. We are changing from four months and fifteen days to ninety days. The original report from the committee had been sixty days. But we had some discussion on this and we increased it to ninety days.

Now, 4 and 5 are similar. One takes care of the state department, the other takes care of chapters. We are asking that they make a report within ninety days. What's happening, a lot of these chapters and departments are waiting till the four months and fifteen days has been used up and they start asking for extensions. I know of one case in Massachusetts that took eight months before we could get it resolved. And we are going to have to get the financial question resolved. So I would hope that you would go along with resolutions 4 and 5.

No objections, 4 and 5 are passed.

Resolution number 6. All this does is just change the life membership payment from two years plus the fiscal year to three years plus the fiscal year. So when a person signs up now for life membership, they have three years to pay. No objection to that, that will be considered passed, approved.

The next one, Resolution: Be it resolved that Article 11, Section 11.11, paragraph 5(b), page 39, be amended to read in its entirety as follows: If there's a question on eligibility it shall be submitted to the national adjutant for his decision.

This is what we are striking out of the bylaws.

Mr. **Joseph V. Racco**. Comrade Commander, Joe Racco from Ohio, 35. A point of order, sir.

When Joe Harold mentioned that they are passed, will he please say that the committee passed them, in the committee it was considered passed. But we haven't adopted these. He was going to read them all, and then we was going to accept them as a whole, unless any certain one is discussed or set aside. Am I correct on that?

Commander **Murphy**. Yes, you are.

Mr. **Racco**. When he mentioned they passed, people are under the understanding that they are already passed.

Commander **Murphy**. We will have a motion and a second at the end of the report.

Mr. **Racco**. Then he should say it was considered by the committee and was passed by the committee. Thank you, Commander.

Commander **Murphy**. Thank you.

Mr. **Harold**. All of these have been passed by the committee. Now you will be passing them by the Convention. And the Convention is then going to adopt the report with these all approved. Am I right?

Member. Comrade Commander. Point of order.

Commander **Murphy**. Mike 2.

Member. I think the chairman is right. He's trying to get this passed with unanimous consent. And it says, If there is no objection we will pass this with unanimous consent. He does not need a second to the resolution. And he does not make a motion. He is making the motion.

This is passing resolutions without any province with unanimous consent. And he's correct in what he's doing but his terminology is a little wrong.

Commander **Murphy**. Thank you.

Mr. **Harold**. This is still resolution number 7. What we are doing is changing Article 2, Section 11.11. We are striking out the present article. And this is what we are striking out. We are striking out (b). If a chapter is satisfied the applicant was wounded, gassed, injured or disabled in the line of duty during time of war, he can be accepted as a member. An adverse ruling of the Veterans Administration will not result in preclude eligibility to membership.

We are having difficulty with this, and what we are doing is striking out and asking that any question of eligibility, whether it's under hazardous condition, wartime, or any other condition, the question of eligibility will be settled by the national adjutant, not by the local chapter, because the local chapter in a lot of cases are going ahead and signing up people who are not eligible, and then these people are now starting to run for office, and we are having a lot of complaints.

This will settle the complaint once and for all. So I hope that there's no objection to this resolution. Number 7.

Now this resolution here, resolution number 8: Be it resolved that Article 14, Section 14.10, be amended by striking out the entire section and substituting the following: National Headquarters shall provide a blanket fidelity bond at its expense for the maximum liability of $100,000, covering all elected or appointed state department and chapter officers. Such fidelity bond shall not cover the first $1,000 of any loss.

What we are striking out, what I believe, if I remember correctly, the national organization used to have a blanket fidelity bond up to 10,000. Now some of these chapters have more than $10,000. And the only way they can get it up to $100,000 is because the first $1,000 is not included.

They have had very few complaints for the loss of less than 1,000. And I would recommend that this be adopted.

If there's no objection we will pass on to the next one.

This next one, resolution number 9: Be it resolved that Article 15, Section 15.7, paragraph 3, page 52, be amended to read as follows:

Paragraph 3: Each subordinate body shall, notwithstanding any other provision of these Bylaws, submit to the national organization, through the national inspector general, an annual financial statement within ninety days after close of fiscal year or within ninety days or receipt of a demand by the National Finance Committee. The statement must be audited by a certified public accountant if the gross annual income excluding membership per capita exceeds 50,000 from all sources.

In addition, for each month that the gross monthly income exceeds 10,000, an unaudited report be required to be sent to National Headquarters.

What we are doing here is that we are excluding, out of your gross annual income, the membership per capita. What we are requiring is that the membership per capita is not included in your gross annual income, but if you exceed $50,000 then you must have a certified public accountant's report of the gross income for one month or more than one month; if you have a $10,000 income, an unaudited report.

If there's no objection, we will pass on to the next one.

Now, this is one of those reports that I ought to give it to the gentleman who wants this written word by word so he can read it, but I'll do it.

I'll tell you what it does first. It changes the entire Article 16, page 53, and what we are trying to do here is trying to get the person who has been penalized by some departments, they have been giving them a hearing without being present, a hearing without being notified what the penalties are, find him guilty, and then say, "Here is what we charge you with. You can appeal if you want to."

And what this does is it's going to make sure that no person has any charges, any trial, unless he has the charges against him in writing, and he has a thirty-day period before he has a hearing, anyway.

Also, there's one part that we are adding, that's Section (c) of this. And as you know, in some chapters, some places we have some people who do cause a little trouble, disturbance at meetings, and this is what we added: Conduct not conducive to the best interests of the organization or contrary to the maintenance of proper order and decorum within the organization.

That could be a charge for dismissal or penalty.

Do you want me to read the whole two pages? I hear no objection.

Mr. JAMES C. TILLMAN. Clarification. Mike 1, please. Clarification, please, over the subject you are speaking on, please.

Commander MURPHY. Mike 1.

Mr. TILLMAN. Thank you, Commander. I would like clarification on the trials and charges brought. I know it's personality, but I need to straighten it out.

Commander MURPHY. Sir, you are out of order.

Mr. TILLMAN. Thank you for telling me.

Commander MURPHY. Mike 2.

Mr. GODICH. Mike 2, Mike Godich, Jr., delegate, number 52, McKeesport, Pennsylvania. At this time I move that this be considered the first reading of this bylaw.

Mr. HAROLD. This was written yesterday. This was read in brief yesterday and it's——

Mr. GODICH. Comrade Commander, point of order.

Mr. HAROLD. I'm answering your point of order.

Mr. GODICH. You are not the commander, please.

Commander MURPHY. Sir, you are out of order.

Mr. GODICH. Comrade Commander, I made a motion. But you should have ruled that it's out of order because of lack of a second. Thank you.

Mr. HAROLD. I understand the motion is not accepted.

Commander **Murphy**. You made a motion then. Excuse me. On the motion. Do we have a second?

It dies for lack of a second.

Mr. **Harold**. Do you want me to read this?

Audience. No.

Mr. **Harold**. I mean, you can read it yourself probably better than I can. If you have any question, I would be most happy to answer. I answered some questions this morning in some of these things.

Commander **Murphy**. Mike 1.

Mr. **John F. Gilpin**. John Gilpin, delegate, Massachusetts. I make a motion to accept this Article 16 as read. As written.

Commander **Murphy**. Joe is making the motion to accept this, and then when we read the complete package we will have a second on it to adopt the whole report.

Mr. **Gilpin**. I won't second that.

Commander **Murphy**. We don't need that, sir. Thank you.

Mr. **Harold**. Resolution number 11: Be it resolved that Article 7, Section 7.2, Paragraph 1, page 23, be amended by deleting "an executive director of the Washington office." Any objection?

Resolution number 12: Be it resolved that Article 7, Section 7.2, page 23, be amended by deleting paragraph 2 in its entirety, and renumbering the remaining paragraphs.

And what paragraph 2 is, the national commander shall appoint an inspector general whose duties are defined in Section 7.8. Later on we are going to put them in another Section. No objection to 12.

Next is 13: Be it resolved that Article 7, Section 7.4, page 24, be amended to read—what has happened here, and you will see later on, we are deleting the entire Article 7.7, which is the Washington Headquarters section dealing with the executive director. We are moving all those paragraphs out of there and putting them in the parts of the Bylaws where we think they belong. And some of them come in here. And we have a couple of changes. And the changes we will notify you.

Be it resolved that Article 7, 7.4, page 24, be amended to read that: Paragraph 1: The National Adjutant is subject to the instructions of the National Commander, National Executive Committee or National Convention shall supervise and direct all activities of the National Organization.

I think that was part of 7.7, Paragraph 2, on page 25. We are moving it in here, end of 7.4.

Paragraph 2 and Paragraph 3 under 7.4, before it was paragraph 1 and 2, now they are 2 and 3. There's no changes in that.

Paragraph 4 was in another section, and there's been a change. The National Adjutant, by and with the consent of the National Commander, shall appoint an Administrative Director who, subject to instructions of the National Adjutant, shall manage the activities of the National Headquarters office in Cold Spring, Kentucky. He shall determine a salary of such director by and with the consent of the National Finance Committee.

And also the next one, Paragraph 5: The National Adjutant, by and with the consent of the National Commander, shall appoint an Inspector General whose duties are defined in Section 7.8. He shall determine the salary of such person by and with the consent of the National Finance Committee.

The reason why I have so many papers, I have got my notes on these things.

Paragraph 6: The National Adjutant, by and with the consent of the National Commander, shall appoint directors, assistant directors and such other employees as may be deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of his office and with the consent of the National Finance Committee determine their salaries.

Most of those were all under Article 7, 7.7. And now they are going under Article 7.4, which is part of the national adjutant's duties.

If no objection of 13, can I consider it approved? No objection? 13 is approved.

The resolution number 14. And this is where we—Be it resolved that Article 7, Section 7.7, page 25 and 26, be amended by deleting Section 7.7 in its entirety, and renumbering the remaining sections. And we have taken most of that, put it in different sections. No objection; 14 is passed.

Resolution 17. This is one that took me a little while to understand it, but I finally arrived at that point.

Be it resolved that Article 2, Section 2.2, page 5, be amended by adding the following paragraph. This is the part of 7.7 we divided up, put half here and half under the other. If you look at your Bylaws, this is under legislative action, I think it is. Legislative activities.

It's a new paragraph 3: In the absence of any mandate to cover any matter wherein laws already enacted by Congress are under attack, the National Commander and National Adjutant and National Executive Committee are hereby placed under continuing mandate by these Bylaws to resist and oppose any changes in laws or regulations advocated by any Presidential commission, executive order, by special investigative commission created by Congress, or any legislative bills sponsored by any standing or special committee of the Congress that would repeal or deprive veterans or their dependents of benefits already granted by law.

And that's going to be on page 5. No objection? No question? Okay.

Resolution 18. Be it resolved that Article 7, Section 7.9, Paragraph 1, page 27, be amended to read as follows: The National Commander shall delegate to the National Adjutant the authority to appoint such National Service Officers as are found necessary. Their salaries shall be set forth as an item of the budget. He shall direct the National Service Officers, the National Service Officer Trainees, any training programs related to National Service Officers and all other service activities of the National Organization.

This is part of the duties that the executive director of the Washington office had. And it's being maintained now under the adjutant's position. No objection; 18 is passed.

The only change we had, we struck out the Executive Director of the Washington office, put in National Adjutant.

Resolution 19: Be it resolved that Article 12, Section 12.2, paragraph 1, lines 1, 2 and 3, page 40, be amended by omitting "an assistant national adjutant or the executive director of the Washington Headquarters."

This is procedure for discharge. Presently paragraph 1 says the National Adjutant, Assistant National Adjutant and Executive Director of the Washington Headquarters may discharge any such employees. We are striking out Assistant National Adjutant or Executive Director, and it's going to read: The National Adjutant may discharge any such employees.

No objection, 19.

Resolution 20: Be it resolved that Article 12, Section 12.4, page 41 and 42, be amended to read as follows: Paragraph 1: The salary of the National Adjutant shall be determined by the National Finance Committee. Paragraph 2: The National Commander shall not be considered a paid employee of the National Organization. In lieu of compensation, he is to receive a fixed amount of his expenses for his year's tenure, to be fixed by the National Finance Committee. Transportation expense shall be allowed, in addition.

Previously we had the salary of the national adjutant and also the expenses for the national commander, I believe. It would be recommended by the Finance Committee, approved by the NEC, that we feel that we should keep this within the confines of the Finance Committee. And the NEC gets copies of the minutes of the Finance Committee, and they will find out then when the raises are approved.

So if there's no objection, 20 would be passed.

Resolution 21: Be it resolved that Article 17, Section 7.1, paragraph 3, page 55, be amended to read as follows: The office of the National Commander is compared to that of a president of a corporation; a National Vice-Commander, a vice-president; National Adjutant, executive director and secretary; the Administrative Director, an assistant secretary; and the National Executive Committee is compared to a board of directors.

The only change we have here is we put down that the national adjutant previously had been executive director. Now he's going to be executive director and secretary. And the administrative director is put in here, it used to be an assistant national adjutant. And he's also going to be an assistant secretary.

The Administrative Director is going to be in charge of the Cold Springs office. We felt that he should be in here so he'll have some authority to sign papers as necessary.

If there's no objection, 21 will be considered approved.

This is the one that I used to have trouble with. It took me about four times to get the language.

Be it resolved that Article 2, Section 2.2, Paragraph 2, page 5, line 6, be amended by omitting the words "Article 7, Section 7.7," and inserting "Paragraph 3 of this section."

We have already put Paragraph 3 in. But what we are doing here, I don't assume you have your Bylaws handy. But it says here, on Paragraph 2: No federal legislation shall be sponsored or endorsed by a national officer or any member on behalf of or in the name of the DAV National Organization or any subdivision thereof unless it has been approved by National Convention, by the National Executive Committee. And this is what we are going to strike out: Except as otherwise provided in Article 7, Section .7. That was the Article that we had deleted entirely.

So we are just going to take that little sentence right out of there.

No objection, 22 will be considered passed.

And this is the one on the Inspector General. Be it resolved that Article 7, 7.8, Paragraph 1, page 26, be amended to read as follows: The Inspector General, under the supervision of the National Adjutant or the National Adjutant's designee, shall investigate any alleged violation of the National Constitution and Bylaws, including but not limited to occurrences in the state department, chapter, county or district council, women's auxiliary, or NOTR unit, which may impugn the integrity or reputation of the Organization. He shall report his findings and recommendations to the National Adjutant or his designee.

I hope I'm not reading this too fast. If I am, just slow me down.

But what this does here now is puts the inspector general under the national adjutant who is more available for consultation than possibly the national commander, who would be on the road most of the time.

So if there's no objection, resolution 23 would be passed.

Mr. **Charles Sirhal**. Objection. Sirhal, chapter 19, Michigan. On behalf of the National Order of Trench Rats, I would object and oppose this amendment as it pertains to the National Order of Trench Rats.

Commander **Murphy**. Can we lay it aside?

Mr. **Harold**. No, we are going to take it right now. We acknowledge your objection. But your objection is notwithstanding. It's up to the people here. This was in the Bylaws for the last—since we started the Inspector General's job. You should have objected at the time it was put in.

And we are going to inspect the NOTR if it's necessary. I don't think up to the present moment they have had to do anything with the NOTR.

Mr. **Sirhal**. That is correct.

Mr. **Harold**. They have left the NOTR alone, they left the women's auxiliary alone. And I just think it has to be in here because we have to have jurisdiction on anything that comes under the DAV. Is that right, John?

So if there is no other objection, we heard his objection. 22 will be passed.

Mr. **Sirhal**. Do you want me to set the just basis for the objection or are you just going to let me record the objection, sir?

Mr. **Harold**. If he wants to give his objection, go ahead.

Commander **Murphy**. Go ahead, sir. Mike 1.

Mr. **Sirhal**. The objection is based primarily on the fact that we are a proper auxiliary of the DAV. We do have our own in-house methodics with regard to determining where there is or is not an impropriety. We govern ourselves, we police ourselves, and at this point, by your own statement, there has never been a problem as to us.

Commander **Murphy**. Sir, have you looked at your Constitution and Bylaws, page 27? It's already in there. So I don't understand your objection.

Mr. **Sirhal**. The objection is that before that the Inspector General did not go into our assets or into our activities.

Commander **Murphy**. I'm sorry, you are wrong there. Look at your Constitution and Bylaws.

Mr. **Sirhal**. You are talking about the National?

Mr. **Harold**. Let him speak. He knows it's in the Bylaws. It's been in the Bylaws since we started. We are not going to change his mind.

Commander **Murphy**. Sir, it's in the Bylaws.

Mr. **Sirhal**. We continue our objection and let the body vote on it.

Mr. **Harold**. Okay. Ask the body to vote whether to accept resolution number 23 or not.

Commander **Murphy**. We will bring that up at the end.

Mr. **Harold**. Resolution number 24: Be it resolved that Article 3, Section 3.10, page 13, be amended by striking out rule 21(d), Committee on Veterans Rights, and the remaining paragraphs be relettered and Rule 21(c) be amended to read: Committee on Legislation and Veterans Rights: This committee shall consider all resolutions proposing or requiring legislation on compensation, pensions, legal and guardianship matters and appeals, as well as on all matters of policy and procedure with the Veterans Administration, including problems involving NSL Insurance. It shall consider all resolutions not requiring legislation on compensation, pensions, legal and guardianship matters and appeals, and on all other matters in which other public and private agencies charged with rehabilitation and improvement of the disabled veterans and his dependents are concerned.

What we are doing, we are consolidating the two committees here, the Legislation and Veterans Rights. And we are going to be consolidating a few more.

But this year, Veterans Rights—I had last year's Veterans Rights. They had four resolutions.

I didn't get the report on the Legislation.

But what we are trying to do is consolidate some of these committees, because we are finding difficulties in the district meetings to fill all of the spots on some of these committees.

And some of these committees aren't getting any resolutions. But Membership and Volunteer Service had no resolutions filed before it.

At this time Finance and Dues didn't have any. National Security and Americanism had eight. Veterans Rights had five and General Resolutions had 24.

We had a reduction of 150 resolutions from last year. And we are asking to consolidate some of these to make it much easier for the delegates to enjoy the convention, not be tied up at a committee hearing where we have no business.

So resolution number 24 will be approved if there's no objection.

And the same thing goes for the next one. Resolution number 25: Be it resolved that Article 3, Section 3.10, page 14 and 15, be amended by striking out Rules 21(g) and 21(j) and the remaining paragraphs be relettered and Rule 21(b), page 13, be amended to read: (b) Committee on General Resolutions, National Security, Americanism and Membership: This committee shall consider all matters which are not covered by the resolution referable to other committees of this Convention and shall formulate and give expressions of thanks, appreciation and condolences in resolution form, and shall consider housing matters as they may affect disabled veterans, and shall consider all matters referred to it which pertain to citizenship, Americanism, national defense or the security of the United States. It shall consider all matters concerning membership activities and eligibility requirements.

And if there's no objection to that one, we will consider that approved.

The next one is Article 26. And what we have done on this one here, we have put Volunteer Services in here. We have changed the Title, so the committee name will now be Hospital and Volunteer Service.

Be it resolved that Article 3, Section 3.10, Rule 21(i), page 15, be amended to read as follows:

(g) Committee on Hospital and Voluntary Services: This committee shall consider questions concerning the status of medical care delivered by VA hospitals and outpatient clinics and all matters pertaining to DAV voluntary service programs.

That's 26. And I will hold that for one minute.

And resolution 27, the only change we made in 27 is we changed the name of the title. It used to be the Hospital Medical Services. What we did, we combined it and made it Hospital and Volunteer Services that coincide with the committee, convention committee.

Be it resolved that Article 7, 7.12, page 28, be amended to read as follows: The National Commander, within sixty days after his election, shall appoint the following interim committees: Constitution and Bylaws; Membership; Legislation; Employment; and Hospital and Volunteer Services. The members of such committee shall serve without compensation.

And that's 27.

Be it resolved that Article 3, Section 3.3, Paragraph 2, page 6—and this is resolution 28—be amended by adding the words, "at least" between "committee" on the second line and "three" on the third line. And what this is proposed to do under the present—what's in the Bylaws now is that the National Executive Committee can determine three years in advance of national conventions.

And sometimes they have opportunity, if they can go more than three years, to get better deals, or whatever they call it, and so all we are asking is that—now it will read: The place where the convention shall be held shall be determined by the National Executive Committee at least three years in advance upon recommendation made to it by the National Adjutant, so on and so forth.

No objection.

Mr. SIRHAL. Mike 1, please, sir.

Commander MURPHY. Mike 1.

Mr. SIRHAL. On behalf of the National Order of Trench Rats, I would ask that the objection as to resolution 23 be now withdrawn.

Mr. HAROLD. Thank you.

Commander MURPHY. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr. HAROLD. Article 29. Every so often we have people that read the rules and regulations to Bylaws and the ritual, and they bring to our attention little errors that we made.

And what this is, under the present DAV chapter meeting short-order form, number 15 is 9:00 o'clock ceremony at 9:00 p.m. sharp takes precedent over whatever else is taking place at that time. And at one time on the page 65, we changed the 9:00 o'clock ceremony description to Memorial Ceremony. And all we are asking here is to strike out the 9:00 o'clock ceremony, because some of the people are meeting in afternoons; they don't have a 9:00 o'clock ceremony.

Strike out that 9:00 o'clock ceremony and put on line 15, add the word "Memorial Ceremony" that will coincide with what is on page 65.

No objection?

Then we have some more people that keep looking and—I won't mention the names, but what happens is—Be it resolved that the Official Ritual, page 59, be amended by adding at the end of the page and as a new paragraph the word "two."

If you go to page 59 you will see the "Comrades, Attention," and "Those who are wearing their hats," place your hand over your heart, and then they have the oath to the flag, and they give the salute, but they are still holding their hand up. They can never take it down because they haven't got the order in the paper. All we are asking is to put the word "two" in there so they can cancel the oath.

And the same thing as on the next one. Be it resolved that the Official Ritual, page 66, be amended by adding, after sixth line, the word "two." It's the same thing.

And that's the end of the report. And I just want to thank you all for being so patient with us.

I just want you to know that we worked hard on these. And it wasn't just a one-man or two-man or three-man show. We had everybody possible involved in it. Of course, we all weren't happy.

I think it took us longer to decide what we were going to present than it did to put it through this Convention. So thank you very much.

Now we will take the motion.

Commander MURPHY. Do you approve all that?

Mr. HAROLD. I've got Stan Pealer and Dick Sarrazin are going to make the motion.

One moment. I might have made the motion, but I didn't want you to rule me out of order, because I had already spoken on all these. And if I made a motion, you probably would have ruled me out of order, because somebody said to the Commander, "If you can rule Joe Harold out of order, I'll give you $50 each time you do it."

I gave him the first payment yesterday. [Laughter.]

Commander MURPHY. Thank you, Joe. Mike 1.

Mr. JOHN E. GOODMAN. Comrade Commander, I'm John Goodman, duly-elected delegate from chapter number 26, district 20 in Texas.

I am happy, sir, to move that this remarkable chore that was done by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, recommending all of these housekeeping and otherwise amendments, in updating our Constitution and Bylaws to confine within the business operation of the Organization, I move you, sir, that we accept and approve these amendments and give this committee a tremendous rising vote of thanks for the outstanding job they have done.

Commander MURPHY. Thank you, Johnny. Mike 3.

Mr. PEDRO H. DOBLADO. Pete Doblado, district 16. I second the motion for a fine job they have done to put this together.

Commander MURPHY. Thank you. Discussion? Mike 2.

Mr. JOSEPH RACCO. Comrade Commander, mike 2, Joe Racco, Ohio, 35. Comrade Commander, I have no objection. But I would like to amend the motion to read "as printed," since it was hard for us to hear back there, so that all the members will know that this was as printed. Thank you.

Commander MURPHY. On the amendment, do I have a second? Mike 3.

Mr. RICHARD E. MARBES. Dick Marbes, delegate, Wisconsin, number 3. I will second the motion to amend.

Commander MURPHY. On the amendment, is there any discussion?

Mr. JAMES C. TILLMAN, Jr. Mike 1, discussion. I hope I don't get called out of order because I am trying to get something straight from my heart. And you called me out of order because I wanted to ask a question.

You know what the question was, too. On Article 15, Trials and Charges. I wasn't allowed to speak on it. I was called out of order.

Commander MURPHY. On the amendment you are out of order, sir. On the amendment, is there any discussion? Question on the amendment. All in favor say Aye. All against say Nay. The amendment passes, is approved.

Mr. MIKE GODICH, Jr. Mike 2, please.

Commander MURPHY. Mike 2.

Mr. GODICH. Mike Godich, Jr., delegate, number 52, McKeesport, Pennsylvania, rises to amend Article 16, Paragraph 3, Section (b). I wish to offer the following amendment: The State Commander or the National Commander, as the case may be, shall notify the member by registered mail a specific violation with which he is being charged.

Mr. HAROLD. Point of order, Comrade Commander. The man is out of order. There's no amendment to be accepted today.

Mr. GODICH. I asked, Comrade Commander. This is the proper time to amend the Constitution on the final reading.

Mr. HAROLD. There are no amendments——

Commander MURPHY. Gentlemen, gentlemen, you are out of order. I don't want any dialogue.

On the motion as amended, is there any discussion? Mike 1.

Mr. JOHN F. GILPIN. Mike 1, John Gilpin, delegate, Massachusetts. This motion is approved and seconded. There should be no more further discussion on it.

Commander MURPHY. The amendment was approved. Okay. On the motion as amended, on the question, all in favor say Aye. All against say Nay. So moved. Thank you very much, Joe, and your committee. [Applause.]

Mr. HAROLD. Thank you.

Commander MURPHY. Mike 3.

MEMBER. Commander Murphy, would you just, for point of clarification, have the chairman give us the effective date that refers to resolutions 4 and 5 where we change to the ninety days for financial reports, when that takes effect?

Commander MURPHY. When the date is effective? It's effective right now, sir. It's been approved by the body.

MEMBER. So at the end of September would be the ninety days; is that correct? Financial reports should be in by the end of September this year?

Commander MURPHY. Ninety days after the end of their fiscal year, sir.

MEMBER. Thank you very much.

Commander MURPHY. At this time, ladies and gentlemen, would you please join me in welcoming the Imperial Golden Rodent, Ted Nowry, and the Imperial Council of the National Order of the Trench Rats.

Mr. COSGRIFF. I have two more checks. One from Odell Vaughn, former deputy administrator, for $2500; and one from chapter 1, San Juan, Puerto Rico, for $500. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Commander MURPHY. At this time we will have the National Order of the Trench Rats. Could one of the sergeant at arms see if the National Order of Trench Rats are going to be addressing our convention? If not, we will go on with the agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen, would you please join me in welcoming the Imperial Golden Rodent and the Imperial Council of the National Order of Trench Rats. [Applause.]

I think we are in trouble, folks. At this time I'd like to introduce the Imperial Golden Rodent, Ken Nowry. [Applause.]

Mr. KENNETH G. NOWRY. Thank you, Commander Murphy. At this time I would bring you the greetings of the Imperial Van. And this morning I would like to introduce the Imperial Van officers.

The Imperial Silver Rodent, Vincent P. Reed from Boston, Massachusetts.

The Imperial Blue Rodent, Os Pederson, from Kansas City, Missouri.

Atha M. Foster, Imperial Turquoise, from Mississippi.

Imperial Bubonic Plague, Robert Elliott, from Chicago, Illinois.

The Imperial Black Plague, Ernest G. Balcom.

Imperial Iron Claw, Marvin Roslansky from Wisconsin.

Imperial Historic Rat, Fred A. Sutton from Indiana.

The Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer, former Imperial Rodent, Lee A. Henderson from Fort Lauderdale.

And my most trusted Imperial Bench Rat, Charles M. Sirhal, from Michigan.

The Imperial Nightingale, Richard M. Stentiford, from Massachusetts.

Leroy Moore, my Imperial Cure Rat.

And our Imperial Hole-y Rat, Russell R. Henderson, from Virginia.

And the Assistant Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer, from Mississippi, Paul Bailey.

And our Imperial Rendezvous Rat, Frank Webb.

Imperial Executive Rats, 1st district, Anthony J. Foti. 2nd district, New York, Al Nowak. 3rd district, Joseph Letourneau.

Next is Jerry Loncosky. Washington, D.C., Chester M. Plummer. Sector of Florida, Joe Dirocco. Alabama, Roy L. Mitchell. North

Carolina, Elbert Townsend. 10th district, George Zoscsak, Michigan.

Illinois, James Schroeder. Indiana, James Hughes. Evert Bradbury, South Dakota.

Missouri, E. C. Chuck Alford, Jr. California, Darrel Camp. Nevada, Bill Purcell. Washington, Tacoma, Washington, John Palmiter. Oklahoma is Jimmy Foster.

And now I will introduce the Imperial Rodents, the trusted Board of Directors of our organization.

Werren B. Lone, Washington, D.C. John J. Dilaurenzio, Connecticut. Lee A. Henderson, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Douglas R. Jones, New York. Jack E. Follis, Chicago, Illinois.

And I am going to call him by the name I know him by, Corky Yost. Alfred W. Grajek, Chicago, Illinois. From Denver, Colorado, Sam M. Vigil.

And from Kentucky, Charles P. Merrifield, two Rs. And our oldest in seniority, deputy sheriff from Indiana, who was the Imperial Golden Rodent in 1953, Edward F. James. [Applause.]

And now, I don't see the National Commander here. So for just a moment I would like to share with you—I knew he'd come when I said that.

Commander, I don't see any of your other officers, so I do address all of you delegates here, you brothers out there, everyone here from both organizations.

This year has been a little bit different. We have tried to accomplish this for many years. And finally we have put together our national publication for the NOTR.

This morning I would like to take the pleasure of presenting to you a laminated copy of the cover. I'm sure you got one in the mail.

Commander MURPHY. It was all blank.

Mr. NOWRY. Is that right? That's what I told the editor. I said, If you send one to Gene Murphy, be sure you don't put anything in the pages. [Laughter.]

I'm very proud of the opportunity this morning to address you. And as all of you know, this magazine, or this bulletin, whatever you want to call it, has been some time in coming. And I wanted to share with you, for those of you who received it, on the back page is a list of people who made it possible.

We did it with the help of every sector, dugout and brother in this organization, and some who are not brothers of this organization, who were willing to help us to get this thing going.

I am very, very happy this morning to come before you with some real good news, and I consider that good news.

Now, you may have another friend somewhere, Commander. I think his name is Joeckel. You just got yourself a new adjutant.

Commander MURPHY. I sure do.

Mr. NOWRY. Butch, would you come up for this? I knew you were behind me somewhere. I most cases, you are looking over our shoulders. But that's all right; we have nothing to hide.

I am going to present to you both of these, a laminated and a real copy. And it's again my pleasure to be here before you this morning. We plan to come back Thursday.

Adjutant JOECKEL. Bring any money?

Mr. NOWRY. If you are good. [Laughter.] After all, if you can't be seen, I can't give you the money.

Adjutant JOECKEL. *Oh, I'll be here.*

Mr. NOWRY. Thank you very much, Commander. We hope we didn't take too much of your time.

Mr. JAMES C. TILLMAN, Jr. Commander, please. Mike 1, James Tillman, Jr., mike number 2. Could I have the great privilege to approach the podium for my little shindig real quick? Mike 1, please. James Tillman, Jr., Blind Chapter, number 2, Brother Rat. Can I have permission to approach the podium? Will you please?

Commander MURPHY. Mike 1.

Mr. TILLMAN. James Tillman, Jr., Blind Chapter, number 2. Can I come to the podium for my brothers, and also for you, too? May I have the permission? I won't take up too much time, even if I am blind.

Commander MURPHY. Jimmy, they are moving off the stage now, the Brother Rats. They are gone.

Mr. TILLMAN. Well, in that case, can I come to you, then, with my little presentation, if you will allow me?

Commander MURPHY. You can go ahead and speak right from mike one.

Mr. TILLMAN. I want to give it to you personally.

Commander MURPHY. Okay, come on up. Will one of the sergeant-at-arms bring Jimmy forward?

At this time I'd like to call on Sal Uccello, George Ofiesh and William Warner for presentations, if you could please come forward.

At this time we will turn the mike over to Jimmy.

Mr. TILLMAN. It gave me a great pleasure and a great honor from my heart, to the Commander, and offer it at the present time. This is a silver dollar in the year of my birth in 1921. I'd like to present it to the commander.

I do classify—the DAV when they got their national charter. I am very proud to play a part in the Disabled American Veterans, even in he does call me out of order.

Anyway, Commander, and also from the state of Florida, I would like to present him the Mother's Day Certificate from the state of Florida, if I can find it. Read the proclamation to the body. Read it, please, to the body.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS. Which part do you want me to read?

Mr. TILLMAN. The presentation from the state of Florida to his mother.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS. Resolution expressing gratitude and affection to all mothers. This is a resolution expressing gratitude and affection to all mothers.

Whereas, Sunday, May 8, 1988, has been designated Mother's Day, whereas, the highest ideals and noblest principles of humanity find the most exemplary expression of the sacrifice and devotions of mothers, and, whereas, it is proper that members and staff of the House of Representatives recognize the immeasurable debt of gratitude of all mothers,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the House of Representatives, State of Florida, the members of the House of Representatives, do hereby express to their own mothers, to all mothers on behalf of the citizens of the State of Florida, personal affection and heartfelt gratitude.

Be it further resolved that this resolution be spread upon the Journal of the House of Representatives as a tangible token of the love and respect the members hold for all mothers. This is to certify the foregoing signed by the Speaker of the House.

Commander **Murphy**. Thank you very much, Jimmy.

Mr. **Tillman**. On the back of it, it has the rest of it.

Commander **Murphy**. Okay.

Mr. **Tillman**. It's pretty hard to find him. I want to give one of my mother's birth because it's pretty hard to find. And she's over 100 years old. The coin is. I'm very glad to be on the podium.

Commander **Murphy**. Thank you very much, Jimmy. [Applause.]

At this time we would like to call on Sal Uccello for a presentation.

Mr. **Salvator Uccello**. Gene, on behalf of one of our members up in Connecticut, Frank Anderson, he lives in the Rocky Hill Home and Hospital up there. He's now a patient at the New England Hospital with terminal cancer. He met you in Washington. I tried to get him to paint a portrait of you on your famous mono-ski, but he refuses to paint anybody showing their disability.

So he said, Sal, accept this or nothing. And Gene, I want to present it to you on behalf of Frank Anderson.

Commander **Murphy**. Thank you very much.

Mr. **George** N. **Ofiesh**. Commander Murphy, Comrade Adjutant Joeckel's line officers, I'm P.D.C. George Ofiesh, past department commander from Pennsylvania.

I come before you today with great pride, humbly, with respect for the Scholarship Committee which assisted my daughter during my lean years, who is now Jean Ofiesh, who is now serving in Germany as a captain in Air Force Intelligence.

I'm sorry we've got lean years, which I haven't worked in 17 years or a little bit better. But I want to make this presentation to you, Commander. And I pray, God willing, within the years to come I can continue this.

Here is $200 to the Scholarship Committee with great thanks. God bless you all. [Applause.]

Commander **Murphy**. We call on William Warner.

Mr. **William Warner**. My name is William Warner and I'm past department commander from the state of Kentucky. With me is Ruben Meece, our senior vice-commander.

To Mr. Murphy, Honorable Gene A. Murphy, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. On behalf of the Governor of Kentucky, Wallace G. Wilkinson, Lexington chapter number 1, Kentucky, all the members of the great state of Kentucky, and our department, would like to make him a Kentucky Colonel. [Applause.]

Commander **Murphy**. Ladies and gentlemen, please rise and we will ask Chaplain Bergstrom to lead us in prayer.

Chaplain **Bergstrom**. As we have concluded the business which is before us, help us to go forward to carry out those things which have been mandated by this organization, by this group.

May everything that we do continue to be for the good of the disabled veteran, his widow, his orphan, and for the benefit of our country. Amen.

Commander MURPHY. We will render honor to our flag. Hand salute. Two.

The Convention stands in recess until Thursday morning at 9:00 o'clock. Thank you.

[Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 11:33 o'clock a.m., July 26, 1988.]

THURSDAY MORNING BUSINESS SESSION

July 28, 1988

The Thursday Morning Business Session of the Disabled American Veternas 67th National Convention convened in the Chantilly Ballroom of the Loews Anatole Hotel, Dallas, Texas, July 28, 1988, and was called to order at 9:00 o'clock a.m. by Commander Gene A. Murphy.

Commander MURPHY. The Convention will please come to order. Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

[Pledge of Allegiance.]

Commander MURPHY. Chaplain Bergstrom, will you please lead us in prayer?

Chaplain BERGSTROM. Let us pray. Heavenly Father, as we approach the end of our convention for 1988, we give You thanks for the many accomplishments which we have made in Your name.

We pray that we may carry with us the spirit and the will to do those things which must be done. We pray that as we depart from this place this day, we may join our families. Until another time when we may gather together, keep us in safety and in health. In your name always. Amen.

Commander MURPHY. At this time we would like to introduce the newly-elected president of the Commanders and Adjutants Association who will introduce the C&A officers for 1988–89. At this time we would have Gene Di Clemente please come forward. [Applause.]

Mr. EUGENE DI CLEMENTE. Thank you. Commander Murphy, your officers, staff, distinguished guests and delegates: I would like to present the newly-elected officers of the Commanders and Adjutants Association.

Myself, Eugene Di Clemente, president; vice-president, Grant Meade; Richard Bamberger, Executive Board, Maryland; James Y. Marcus from Arizona; Leonard Dudley, Rhode Island; Chaplain, Russell Henderson from Virginia; Judge Advocate, Harold Hughes from Massachusetts—Joe Harold. I was thinking of something else. Sorry.

Secretary-treasurer, Walter D. Hyle, Maryland; assistant secretary and treasurer, and special projects, Paul L. Thompson, Maryland; and our recorder, Reba Pierce Eslinger from Wisconsin.

Chairman of the Audit Committee, George Carlucci from Vermont; Wayne Douglas, Arkansas; Edward Lastowski from New Hampshire; Constitution and Bylaws, Chester Clute, Michigan; Resolutions, Edward James, Indiana; Sergeant-At-Arms, Lester Pittman, Florida; Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms, Thomas Cook, Florida.

The Nominating Committee: Chairman Walter J. Homer, New York; secretary, Francis A. Pinkelmann, Kansas; Ernie Balcom from Florida.

The Commander and Adjutants Association wishes to recommit our pledge to the National Organization of a full support in our expertise to have a one million life member sign-up by the 1989-90 membership year.

And at this time, the C&A would like to make a small presentation of $2,000 to the National Service Foundation. [Applause.]

That's all for today. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander MURPHY. At this time we would like to introduce the newly-elected Imperial Golden Rodent of the National Order of Trench Rats for a presentation.

Will the sergeant-at-arms check again to see if the rats are coming in?

Will the sergeant-at-arms let us know when the rats are ready? Thank you.

At this time I'd like to have my chief of staff Roger Andal, and a friend of mine from South Dakota who I feel is the godfather of South Dakota for the Disabled American Veterans, Frank Branaugh, come forward.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce my chief of staff Roger Andal. This individual, I feel, is really dedicated to the DAV. He's traveled with me throughout the country. He's done everything I've asked him from renting automobiles to making sure I have a room at different hotels. But he's really done an outstanding job, not only for the DAV, but for myself as the National Commander, and I really appreciate this.

At this time I'd like to present him the National Commander's Award presented to Roger Andal for distinguished service to this nation's wartime disabled veterans and their families. Signed by National Adjutant Charles E. Joeckel, Jr., and National Commander Gene Murphy. [Applause.]

Again we would like to introduce the National Order of Trench Rats, the newly-elected Imperial Golden Rodent. Again, Sergeant-At-Arms, are the rats there yet? We are getting very impatient with these individuals.

Again, is the newly-elected Imperial Golden Rodent of the National Order of Trench Rats present?

Okay, at this time I'd like to introduce National Adjutant Butch Joeckel for announcements.

Adjutant JOECKEL. Delegates to the convention, guests, ladies and gentlemen: It is with sincere personal regret that I announce the retirement of Boniface R. Maile, our national judge advocate for more than 27 years. Bonnie announced his intention to retire to the Convention Nominating Committee so that he may devote more time to pressing family and professional matters.

I am pleased to note at the same time that Bonnie has given us his assurance that he will continue to play an active and involved role in DAV affairs. To this end, I have asked him to continue in the role of legal advisor to the national organization. Further, I know that he will provide invaluable service to me and the organization's new judge advocate.

As many of you know, Bonnie is a combat disabled veteran of World War II who practices law in Detroit, Michigan. He's also been an irreplaceable behind-the-scenes legal advisor to the DAV.

Throughout the years of DAV's growth, the organization has had to skirt a veritable mine field of increasingly complex legal requirements.

Today the DAV stands as a model of legal, ethical and professional conduct, thanks in large measure to Bonnie's consistently wise counsel and insight.

I ask that all of you join with me in acknowledging one of DAV's most valued, loyal and committed leaders, Boniface R. Maile. Bonnie. [Rising applause.]

Mr. **Boniface R. Maile**. Thank you, National Adjutant Charles Joeckel. I was glad to hear the latter part of his speech, that this is not a requiem. Do you know what a requiem means? Finis. And I really thank you again for allowing me to continue to serve this great organization.

Few men in their lifetime have served as judge advocate for 27 years, and few men in their lifetime served continually since 1948 in this organization. And few men in this world have the opportunity, by this grateful organization, for allowing me to continue to serve, not only as legal counsel to the National Organization and others, but to go back to my state, continue to work for membership, service, et cetera.

And I thank you all. God willing I'll see you, if not before, at the next National Convention. I may be a thorn in somebody's side. But it will always be for the Disabled American Veterans. Thank you. [Applause.]

Adjutant **Joeckel**. Commander Murphy, I have another announcement. On April 8th, 1988, the commander advised me of another retirement. An individual who has served the DAV for 43 years; 26 years in the capacity of national adjutant.

The DAV, as I said earlier this week, is where it is today because of the guidance and leadership of Denvel D. Adams.

The DAV is today truly the house that Adams built. And before we close this convention, I think it's appropriate, Commander, that we acknowledge the contributions of the delegate from chapter 16, Michigan, Denvel D. Adams, Past National Adjutant.

Please join me in welcoming Dale and his wife Kay. Dale. [Rising applause.]

Mr. **Denvel D. Adams**. Thank you. Comrade Commander, ladies and gentlemen, comrades: We have been a part of and witnessed an historical event taking place at this convention in the life of the DAV. There has been a change of the guard; the torch has been passed. It has been passed to very competent, very able and very dedicated people. But they can only be as good as the support that they receive from you out there.

I would ask that whatever animosities have been created at this convention be put aside, and that you all concentrate on the real enemy so that these people can serve you, serve the disabled veterans whom we represent.

And I for one hereby pledge my support to that end, and I would ask you to to do the same. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander **Murphy**. At this time it gives me great pleasure to introduce the newly-elected Imperial Golden Rodent of the National Order of Trench Rats who rode the horse for a long ways this morning. Would that individual please come forward?

At this time I'd like to introduce the Imperial Golden Rodent of the National Order of Trench Rats, Ken Nowry.

Mr. **Kenneth Nowry**. Thank you, Commander Murphy. Commander Murphy, National Adjutant Joeckel, delegates, distinguished guests, all you beautiful Trench Rats: Of course, they say I'm late. But, you know, the Imperial Golden Rodent this year could never be late. He can do no wrong.

We have had a good year. And I am willing to make a brief presentation this morning to the Disabled American Veterans.

I have here a resolution that I would like to read.

Whereas, God has seen in his infinity wisdom to call to the great beyond Imperial Executive Rat Eugene M. Rineer, 20th district, and whereas this brother had, prior to his untimely demise, worked unselfishly to advance and safeguard the interest of the Disabled American Veterans through his devotion to the high ideals of this organization; and,

Whereas, he did by his acts and diligence as an Imperial Executive Rat help lead the National Order of Trench Rats to the prominent position it holds today in the service of the Disabled American Veterans;

Therefore be it resolved by the National Order of Trench Rats assembled in this 64th national rendezvous in Dallas, Texas, that we recognize his outstanding service by contributing the sum of $100 to the memorial to him, to be placed in a trust account of the Perpetual Rehabilitation Funds of the Disabled American Veteran Service Foundation, the income of which shall be used from time to time toward the maintenance of the nationwide rehabilitation activities of the Disabled American Veterans and their dependents;

And be it further resolved his name be inscribed on the Memorial Honor Roll so all may see and appreciate his sacrifice and devotion to the cause of the disabled veterans as exemplified here. Eugene M. Rineer.

I also have a few other names to add on the honor roll that are there, which we would like to add to. The first one is, Douglas H. McGarrity, Imperial Rodent, by Dugout 363, $200; Douglas H. McGarrity, Imperial Rodent, by Dugout 462, $250.

For my son, Richard L. Nowry, by Dugout 462, $250; Vince Cassidy, Past Imperial Historic Rat, by Dugout 151, $100; Eugene M. Rineer, Imperial Executive Rat, by resolution, $100. And we have one here from Dugout 436, Gulfport, Mississippi, for $500, giving a total of $1400. And I'd like to turn it over for that purpose this morning. [Applause.]

Commander Murphy, I am going to leave this with you. But also in keeping with our past contributions, from the National Order of Trench Rats, I am here this morning to present a check to you for the Service Foundation for $4,080. [Applause.]

And at this time I would like to introduce the man who will—the young man who is going to take my place in just about an hour. And then I suppose I'll be fine. And that is our one and only Vincent Reed from Boston, Massachusetts. Thank you all. [Applause.]

Mr. VINCENT P. REED, Jr. Thank you very much, Ken. It's been a privilege serving under you this year and for the many years that I have been associated with the Imperial Van.

I have been asked to address the audience today on what we hope to do in the National Order of Trench Rats representing for that organization perhaps what they hope for the future, into the next century.

We in the National Order of Trench Rats personally have experienced back to the 1930s among our living Imperial Rodents and other experience back to the 20s with veterans in fraternal societies.

We understand very deeply and personally that the DAV is special and unique. One small example. You stop paying your dues in the Elks, you cease to be an Elk. Stop paying your dues in the American Legion, you are no longer a Legionnaire. There's none of us that belong to the DAV that by the mere stoppage of the payments of dues can ever stop being a disabled veteran.

There exists among the DAV, because of our shared commonality of service-connected disability, a comradeship unique and special that exists in no other group. It is from this uniqueness that the National Order of Trench Rats was born.

To take this unique comradeship, and to nurture it, to grow it, to support it, to raise it up to the level of true brotherhood, that was the dream of our Founding Fathers in 1924.

Back in what was called the dark days of the DAV, as the members of this organization, the National Order of Trench Rats, had reached into their own pockets to be a financial backup to this organization. With today's contributions, we have gone well over the $170,000 mark in our contributions to the National Service Foundation.

Under the very good and gifted leadership of Denvel Dale Adams, we have not seen dark days again, nor do we expect them under the equally gifted and hopeful leadership of Charles "Butch" Joeckel.

We stand ready to support Butch in his programs and the programs of this organization as we have always stood equally to serve Dale during his long tenure as our national adjutant.

It's going to be my pleasure to serve all of you beginning this Saturday with a visitation to the department of Kansas, to the Wichita Dugout, in any way I can when called upon to do so.

It's kind of unique in my family situation. I'm sure that when we remember that the founders of our Order were men living at a public health hospital where veterans were put to be out of sight and hopefully out of mind, with fatally contracted diseases. I'm sure that none of our Founding Fathers would ever dream that over 60 years later the grandson of a man who fought with them in the trenches would be serving as their Imperial Golden Rodent.

So as a third generation DAVer, I'm very, very happy and honored to assume this role, to serve the best fraternity on this planet, because it's part of the best veterans organization in the world.

Thank you very much. [Applause.]

While I'm introducing my family, if one of the sergeant-at-arms could get Arthur Wilson up here to the podium, please, for a presentation, I'll introduce my family.

Originally my mother and father were planning to attend, but unfortunately my mother was operated on on the 9th of July for a very serious illness, and her and Dad were unable to attend.

Therefore, substituting and helping my wife with the children, I'd like to introduce to you my mother-in-law, who I will say nothing bad about while she shares the podium with me. [Laughter.] Martha Swart from Wichita, Kansas. [Applause.] My father-in-law is home taking care of the livestock.

And now my partner, if you will, in many, many endeavors, kind of the honorary executive secretary from my Dugout in the Trench Rats, at least, the woman who puts up with my activities both on the job and on my volunteer work in the National Order of Trench Rats, a member of the DAV, a life member of Verne's chapter number 115 in Saugus, Massachusetts, and a past commander also of her auxiliary, my wife Anita Embree. [Applause.]

And now for the team. If they could line up in order, the people will be able to see you. The first born named, of course, after my department adjutant, Joseph R. Harold, my son Joseph Benton Reed. [Applause.] Next in line is the current senior vice-commander of her junior auxiliary unit and the DAV Miss Teenage Miss from Massachusetts, Kathleen Anita Reed. [Applause.]

Then next came the one they call Loretta the Hun. She's commander of her junior auxiliary unit and the Miss Junior DAV of Massachusetts for this year, Loretta Ann Reed. [Applause.] Now they both win an award in my house for this year.

Next in line is my son Vincent Paul Reed, III. And next in line, accompanied by his godfather, Anthony Lawyer, a life member of Verne's chapter in our collective dugout, is Anthony Francis Reed. [Applause.]

Next in line—his godfather was supposed to be up on stage with him today. His godfather is Al Brodeur, life member of my dugout who is now in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, but is on the floor with his delegation at the moment. Brendon. Say hi to the people. Brendon Leo Reed. [Applause.]

And last, comma, according to my wife, comma, [laughter]—now the whole audience knows where Vinney did not get shot in the war, right? [Laughter.] Last but not least, our little, tiny, two-year-old bundle of joy, Shaun Leonard Reed. Say hi. [Applause.]

And if they get lost in the hotel, if you turn them around, on the back they all say "Reed Rug Rats." [Laughter.]

And now, lastly, if I can have Arthur Henry Wilson up here, please.

Imagine a day when I used to be able to call him Chubby. I have caught up and surpassed you in that category, Arthur.

Arthur was my sponsor when I joined the National Order of Trench Rats. And in appreciation of that fact, I purchased for him a life membership in our dugout, Dugout 358. I'd like to give you your life membership lapel pin now, Arthur. [Applause.]

Mr. ARTHUR H. WILSON. Thank you, Vinney. I was real curious in how I was going to fit into this scenario up here. I didn't know where it was. [Laughter.]

Vinney is one of our NSOs in Boston. Vinney, I want to offer to you our congratulations in your election and your continued and fine support of the National Service Foundation from the Imperial Rats. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr. REED. Now we will say "good-by" by offering to you a challenge. The National Order of Trench Rats is a reward and a challenge. It is a reward for being a good DAVer, and it's the challenge to volunteer and do even more for this organization.

If you are a good DAVer, you belong in the National Order of Trench Rats by justice. Why don't you turn it into fact? Contact your nearest dugout. Or if you can't find your nearest dugout, go to your nearest national service office and they will get ahold of me in the Boston office. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Commander MURPHY. Congratulations to you, Vinney. And let's give the Rats a big hand for that contribution to the Service Foundation. [Applause.]

At this time I would like to introduce Bill Daily for a presentation to the Service Foundation.

Mr. BILL DAILY. Commander Murphy, national officers, delegates. Can you hear me now? I can hear myself, also. Thank you.

As president, and on behalf of the members of SANCO, I would like to present this check to the National Service Foundation.

FROM THE FLOOR. How much?

Mr. DAILY. It's $100. [Applause.]

Commander MURPHY. At this time we would like to entertain a motion to suspend the rules and go into election of national officers. Mike 2.

Mr. JOSEPH HAROLD. Harold, Boston, 10, moves that we suspend rule 24(b) so that we can go along with the election of officers at this time. Thank you.

Commander MURPHY. Thank you, Joe. Mike 1.

Mr. WILLIAM FABREGAS. Bill Fabregas, department of Florida, seconds the motion.

Commander MURPHY. Discussion. All in favor say Aye. All against say Nay. So moved.

Mr. MIKE GODICH. Point of order. When you set a time for nomination and election, you have to hold it—you cannot hold it before that time. According to Robert's Rules of Order, you have got to respect the people that aren't here. Therefore, you cannot—you have to hold the nominations at 10:30 as announced.

Commander MURPHY. Sir, the motion was made to suspend the rules. At this time I'd like to announce that registration of delegates is closed. I'd like to call for the final report of the Credentials Committee.

Mr. LARRY A. POLZIN. Commander, this is a final report and reflects the total registration as of 9:00 a.m. on July 28th, 1988. At the present time we have 705 chapters, 58 departments, 25 national officers, 11 past national commanders, for a total of 1,523 delegates and 80 alternates for a total vote strength of 9,617.

This completes the final report of the Credentials Committee, commander. And I move for its adoption.

Commander MURPHY. I have a motion. Do I have a second? Mike 1.

Mr. JAMES C. TILLMAN, Jr. James Tillman, Jr., the Blind Chapter. I'm 4th Jr. vice now in the Blind Chapter. I make a motion to accept. Second the motion for that.

Mr. TILLMAN. Thank you and God bless you.

Commander MURPHY. Thank you, Jimmy. Discussion. All in favor say Aye. All against say Nay. So moved. Thank you very much.

At this time I would like to call for a report of the Committee on Nomination of National Officers.

Mr. W. O. COOPER. Comrade Commander and delegates: The National Convention Committee on Nominations was called to order for its first business session on July 25th, 1988, by the committee advisor W. O. Cooper.

The first order of business was the election of a convention committee chairman. W. O. Cooper was nominated for chairman. There being no further nominations, they were closed and Cooper was elected chairman.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of the secretary. Leo Leroux was nominated and elected as secretary of the committee.

The committee then recessed until July 26th and 27th to hear the candidates for national office. The final meeting was held on July 28 and the following nominees are presented by the Committee on Nominations for convention consideration. And they:

National commander, Billy E. Kirby of Texas; senior vice-commander, Vernon V. Cardosi, Massachusetts; 1st junior vice-commander, Joseph E. Andry, Ohio; 2nd junior vice-commander, Cleveland Jordan, Washington, D.C.

3rd junior vice-commander, Harry J. Coyle, Pennsylvania; 4th junior vice-commander, Gregory C. Reed, Indiana; national judge advocate, Stan Pealer, Missouri; national chaplain, Reverend Carl E. Bergstrom, Massachusetts.

Comrade Commander, this completes the report of the Committee on Nominations of National Officers, and I move the adoption of this report, and that the committee be discharged with whatever remarks you want to make about it. [Laughter.]

Mr. RACCO. National Commander, Joe Racco, Mike 1, Ohio, 35. I second the motion.

Commander MURPHY. Discussion. All in favor say Aye. All against say Nay. So moved.

Mr. W. O. COOPER. While I have the microphone, I am going to ask the privilege to make a few personal remarks of testimony.

Some 35 years ago, I was a member of Oak Cliff chapter 32 here in Dallas. Its adjutant was Billy Kirby, national service officer.

One day, Billy and I were having a cup of coffee, and he said to me, "Bill, there's some of them would like for you to be available for chapter commander. I think you can get elected. And I'll do all the work."

Well, it was hard to turn down an offer like that. And so I accepted. That was one of those kind you can't refuse.

During these years, however, I have learned how much that beginning Billy gave to me has meant, because I have been privileged to serve this organization in many parts of the country and the world and in many capacities.

It's such a privilege to be a part of an organization whose purposes make it possible for them to answer the anguished cry of Cane, "I am my brother's keeper," and whose service makes it possible for us to follow the admonition of the Sermon on the Mount, because we do render unto the least of these, our brethren.

In the spring of Billy's term, I will start my 81st year, the autumn of my life. And through the DAV, I have been allowed to grow old gracefully, and to feel at times a sense of usefulness. And the most precious moment to me is this one, as chairman of the Nominating Committee, to be able to present the name of Billy Kirby.

I love you, Billy. And I love him.

Thank you for discharging this committee. And please, God, don't let me cry. [Rising applause.]

Commander **Murphy**. The following have been nominated for national officers for 1988–89: National commander, Billy Kirby; senior vice, Vernon B. Cardosi; 1st junior vice, Joseph Andry; 2nd junior vice, Cleveland Jordan; 3rd junior vice, Harry Coyle; 4th junior vice, Greg Reed; national judge advocate, Stan Pealer; and national chaplain, Reverend Carl Bergstrom.

Our Bylaws provide that nominations will be made from the floor. And this will be done.

The chair will now call for any further nominations for the office of national commander. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations?

Hearing none, nominations for national commander are closed.

I now call upon Oliver Meadows for the purpose of nominating speech.

Mr. **Oliver Meadows**. Commander Murphy, my comrades of the DAV, and distinguished guests: I think we are about to enter the most important hour of this convention. We are going to select the leadership for our organization that will guide us through this coming year.

We have just heard the report from Bill Cooper, the people from his committee, and those that we have designated to conduct the search for us for leaders.

The problems that we have are not very much different from the problems that any other organization has. We have the problem of defining the job and trying to find the man with the qualifications to match the job.

In looking at the job of national commander, we know there are a lot of duties of all sorts, a variety of duties, ceremonial and otherwise. But when you get right down to it, the national commander has two jobs. His first responsibility is to run the big national service program of this country.

In doing that, we are in a unique position. The national commander signs the letters that go out to the public and asks the public to join with us in supporting this great rehabilitation effort, this great service program.

When he does that, he asks the public to have confidence, to furnish financial support, and to believe in our purposes. And also when he does that, he puts his own honor and his own reputation on the line, because he must then, after he accepts the support of the public, deliver what he said he was going to deliver when he asked for those solicitations. That means that the national commander has to give a lot of attention to making this great service program that we have work.

I can't think of a man that would be better fitting for that. Billy Kirby, our nominee for national commander, spent the first half of his professional life in the service program.

Now for the second part of this job that we are fitting this man to. The second job is to be the captain of our watch on the Potomac. The legislative program, to look out after our benefits and our interests, to head the team that watches and looks out for us in the political scene.

We have a man that's well matched for that obligation, too, because Billy Kirby spent the second half of his career in Washington, in the very middle of the veteran political scene.

So it seems to me that Chairman Cooper and his Nominating Committee have done a very good job in matching up the man with the job.

There's another angle or two to this that I would like to mention to you, too. Billy Kirby gets an unusual additional responsibility placed on him in this way. In his time of 1988 and '89, we are changing the guard in Washington. We are ending eight years of one administration, and we are in the process now, between now and the end of the year, the first half of his term, in selecting another administration. Of course, none of us know who that will be.

But it is the obligation of the man that we select as leader to study this situation carefully, to position us as best he can in the political arena, so that whoever it is and whatever it is, that we are ready to deal with and cope with whatever destiny may bring.

The second half of his administration, we will have a new administration. We don't know who that will be. We don't know what their programs are. We don't know what their attitudes toward veterans are. And we will need a man of deep perception and understanding, someone that understands the political system to start us into this new era, four or eight years, that we are about to embark on.

I think if you will look back, I could cite you some examples of what I mean. Eight years ago, there were a lot of words that we have now that we didn't even have in our vocabulary then. We didn't have words like Graham-Ladder, and Gramm-Rudman. We didn't have a Budget Reconciliation Act. All of those things are new things. And in those days we didn't have economic summits, where the Congress and the President got together and cut the pie ahead of time.

Who knows what this next era will bring?

It gives me a lot of feeling of confidence, of pride, to know that we have a man that we measured for this job that I think is as well qualified as anybody that you could elect to do this job.

One other comment I'd like to make. I imagine when you were young, as I was, you were told that a man is known by the company he keeps. I'd like to comment on some of the company that Billy keeps.

I understand that he has here with him this morning the last four of the fellows he fought with in his unit in Italy. I do know that he has a large number of the leaders of the hospitals, the regional offices and so forth in Texas that are his close personal friends that are here to make a special point of being with Billy.

I also know that he has a special group of friends here from Washington. They are making a point to be here with him.

The counsel of the House Veterans Affairs Committee ought to be in Washington working, but he stayed here so that he could see his special friend elected to this office.

I feel good about this election. I think we fitted the right man to the job.

There is one other thing that Bill Cooper mentioned that I should call to your attention, too. You know, when we elect a national commander, we elect a team. We have a certain family operation in the DAV. And when we elect Billy, we get Em.

Now, we don't have to train Em, because she's had 40 years of it, and she's already trained and ready to go. She's been supporting Billy all these years. I think she got ahold of him when he was a young service officer, and she's had him ever since.

And in addition to that, she has worked in the auxiliary, so we don't have to have a training program. She's ready to go tomorrow. And we are glad to have Em in that capacity.

Finally, let me say that Billy offers a pretty good example, I think, for anyone in the room that would like to work 40 years for the DAV. He's done an awful lot of things, and he's still got a little life left in him. And I feel good about having him looking after our interest and standing guard, and standing watch in Washington, over our programs.

It's a great pleasure and a personal privilege to rise and support the nomination of Billy Kirby. [Applause.]

Commander **Murphy**. At this time I would entertain a motion to suspend the rules and to elect Billy Kirby as national commander by unanimous consent.

Mike 2.

Mr. **Joseph Harold**. Harold, Boston, 10, makes that motion.

Commander **Murphy**. Mike 3.

Mr. **James R. Friesema**. Jim Friesema, Detroit, number 1, supports the motion.

Commander **Murphy**. Discussion. Hearing none, on the question, all in favor say Aye. Opposed say Nay. So moved. [Rising applause.]

Mr. **Harold**. Comrade Commander.

Commander **Murphy**. Mike 2.

Mr. **Harold**. Harold, Boston, 10. At this time I move by unanimous consent of the delegates here a suspension of the rules——

Commander **Murphy**. Excuse me, Joe, can you let the national adjutant cast a unanimous ballot for the national commander, Billy Kirby?

Mr. **Harold**. Thank you.

Adjutant **Joeckel**. Thank you. I don't know that we need to do this, Gene, but according to the rules . . . I, Charles E. Joeckel, Jr., National Adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans, hereby cast one unanimous ballot for Billy Kirby for the office of national commander. [Applause.]

Commander **Murphy**. Mike 2.

Mr. **Harold**. Harold, Boston, 10, at this time moves that the national adjutant cast a unanimous ballot for the balance of the ticket that was announced by the chairman of the Nominating Committee at this time.

Commander MURPHY. Excuse me, Joe, you are out of order. We will now proceed with any——

Mr. HAROLD. That's not going to cost me fifty dollars?

Commander MURPHY. The fee just went up to 100, Joe.

We will now proceed with any further nominations for the office of national senior vice-commander. The Nominating Committee placed the name of Vernon V. Cardosi from Massachusetts. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations?

Hearing none, the nominations for the office of national senior vice-commander are closed.

We will now have nominations for the office of national 1st junior vice-commander. The Nomination Committee placed the name of Joseph E. Andry in. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations?

Hearing none, nominations for the office of national first junior vice-commander are closed.

Nomination for the office of 2nd junior vice-commander. The Nomination Committee placed the name of Cleve Jordan from Washington, D.C. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations?

Hearing none, the nomination for the office of national 2nd junior vice-commander are closed.

Are there any nominations for the position of 3rd junior vice-commander? The name of Harry Coyle from Pennsylvania has been placed. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations?

Hearing none, the nomination for the office of 3rd junior vice-commander are closed.

For 4th junior vice-commander the Nomination Committee has placed Greg Reed of Indiana. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations?

Hearing none, the nomination for the office of 4th junior vice-commander are closed.

For the position of national judge advocate, the Nomination Committee has placed Stan Pealer. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations?

Hearing none, the nomination for the office of national judge advocate are closed.

For the position of national chaplain, the Nomination Committee has placed Reverend Carl Bergstrom. Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Are there any further nominations? Hearing none, the nominations for the office of national chaplain are closed.

Mr. MARVIN SILVER. Mike 3.

Commander MURPHY. Mike 3.

Mr. SILVER. I move at this time that one unanimous ballot be cast for the rest of the ticket of Billy Kirby at this time. Marvin Silver, chapter 96, Pennsylvania.

Commander **Murphy**. Thank you. Do I have a second on that?

Mr. **Joe Racco**. Joe Racco.

Commander **Murphy**. Mike 3.

Mr. **Friesema**. Jim Friesema, Detroit, number 1, supports the motion.

Commander **Murphy**. Discussion. On the question. All in favor say Aye. All against say Nay. So moved. [Applause.]

Adjutant **Joeckel**. I, Charles E. Joeckel, Jr., National Adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans, hereby cast one unanimous ballot for Vernon Cardosi for the office of national senior vice-commander; Joseph Andry to the office of national 1st junior vice-commander; for Cleveland Jordan for the office of national 2nd junior vice-commander; for Harry Coyle to the office of national 3rd junior vice-commander; Gregory C. Reed to the office of national 4th junior vice-commander; for Stan Pealer for the office of national judge advocate; and the Reverend Carl Bergstrom for the office of national chaplain.

Commander **Murphy**. Mike 2.

Mr. **Harold**. Joe Harold, Boston, Mass., moves at this time that the Credentials Committee be discharged with thanks.

Commander **Murphy**. Thank you. Do I have a second? Mike 1.

Mr. **Tillman**. Mike 1, Blind Chapter, James Tillman, Jr., seconds the motion to dismiss with a vote of thanks. Thank you.

Commander **Murphy**. Thank you. Discussion. All in favor say Aye. All against say Nay. So moved.

At this time we request that the newly-elected officers be escorted to the stage. And also we would like to invite the wives and families of the officers.

Will the convention come to order. At this time it gives me great pleasure to introduce the new national commander for his acceptance speech. From the great State of Texas, Billy Kirby. [Rising applause.]

Incoming Commander **Billy E. Kirby**. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you, Gene. For the past few years we have been going up through the charge of the National Organization. I have come to really respect you. My friend, you are going to be a tough act to follow.

I know all of you out there will agree with me that Gene deserves a standing ovation for a great year that he's had. Let's give it to him. [Rising applause.]

Newly-elected national officers, distinguished guests, friends, delegates to the National Convention of the greatest veterans organization in this world: You may have noticed I have had laryngitis for the past couple of days. Unfortunately—some of you may say very fortunately—my voice may fade in a few minutes. If it does, I hope you will forgive me.

And I hope, Bill Cooper, you included me in that little prayer you just made.

When I joined the DAV 42 years ago, never in my wildest imagination did I think that I would receive the honor that you have just given me. Words can't express my feeling of appreciation.

I firmly believe that no one accomplishes anything alone. And I fully understand that anything I have achieved or will have achieve would have been as a result of support and help of many others. To all of you who have helped and supported me throughout these many years—you know who you are—it would be impossible for me to name you all—I wish to express my deepest thanks.

I especially wish to thank my two dearest, long-time friends, past national commanders Cooper and Meadows for their most generous and kind remarks this morning.

But also for their many years of friendship, support and advice. And I can assure them that I will continue to seek it.

I am extremely happy to have part of my family with me today. And I'd like to introduce my wife Emelyn. [Applause.] From Zebulon, North Carolina, our daughter Phyllis. [Applause.] And the pride of our family, two of our grandchildren, Ben and Matt. [Applause.]

During World War II, I served in Company K of the 143rd Infantry Regiment of the 36th Division. Some of you who have not been in the Army may not realize exactly what a machine gun section does. I was a machine gun sergeant of that company. There were eleven men in our original machine gun section. Of course, during the course of the war, there's a lot of people went through our machine gun section. But of our original eleven people who trained for two or three years before we went into combat and first made our invasion of Salerno, Italy, every one was either killed or severally wounded. Today there's only four of us who survive.

I am extremely honored and pleased of the other three here. Would you all stand, please. [Applause.]

You can't imagine what these guys meant to me. They saved my life on several occasions.

As I mentioned, I served in the 36th Division. And when I'm traveling in various departments I have had opportunity to meet many of you. And I realize that many members of my old division are here today to support a fellow tea patcher. And I would like to recognize them.

I can't see you with these lights, but all of you 36th Division guys, wherever you may be, stand. I would appreciate it. Thank you. [Applause.]

Words can't express appreciation for the greatest group of guys in the world, those members of my chapter 32 in Dallas, and my whole department of Texas. And I would like for you to indulge us and let me recognize them. Would all of you members of the department of Texas please stand so I can recognize you. Thank you. [Applause.]

I think all of these fine people, as well as the many other friends, many Oliver mentioned. I know some of the people from the Veterans Administration facilities, the State Veterans Affairs Commission, who I have had the privilege to serve on, and many others. And I wish to thank you very, very much for your presence.

In preparing for this day, I reread the Preamble of our DAV Constitution. I was moved by its inspiring words about our organization's higher moral purpose.

Foremost, of course, is our primary cause: To aid and assist worthy wartime disabled veterans, their widows, their orphans and their dependents. And we can be extremely proud of our accomplishments in this regard.

Our Preamble also calls us to "Hold aloft the torch of true patriotism." What a magnificent phrase.

When I recall what the DAV members have sacrificed, I know you have done your part to hold that torch high. Each of you have laid your life on the line. Each of you paid a very high price, very personal price for America's freedom. You earned the right to your patriotism. You earned the right to be proud of the service you rendered to America's ideals of freedom. Without you there would be no freedom in America. There would be no America.

Yes, I'm patriotic. I won't hide my patriotism from anybody, nor should you. But as implied in our Preamble, holding aloft the torch of patriotism is a continuing obligation. And there is no higher duty than to practice the freedoms we protected on the battlefields.

Freedom is a living ideal, alive in the souls of American people. It asserts itself most fully on election day, as all the freedoms we have are based upon our right to vote for our government officials.

Therefore, election day is when freedom must be practiced. If it isn't, our precious freedoms won't last long.

Let's talk about that for a second. Some folks are saying that veterans don't vote. Our friends aren't saying that. But you would think it was true if you listened to the enemy of veterans' benefits. These folks want to trash the American system of veterans' programs. They have an interest in spreading their filthy rumors on Capitol Hill. If they succeed, we are in trouble. Big trouble.

Many legislators will find it all too easy to favor cuts in veterans' programs. They won't feel any threat from you and me. This is no small matter.

On election day, the political pundits will be checking those who voted and those who did not. If their statistics show that veterans didn't turn out at the polls, we will have more than an image problem. We will have a strategic disaster.

So I'm asking you to be sure to vote, not only in November, but every time there is an election in your community.

Go a step further. Urge your fellow vets to vote. Tell them how important it is for each of them personally. Get your chapter involved. Start a volunteer registration program. Make it one of your chapter's main priorities.

Register every chapter member. Make sure each one turns out at the polls. Get the families out, too, their spouses and voting-age children.

If you want to keep your veterans' benefits intact, it's critical.

Someone gave me a bumper sticker yesterday. You may have seen them. It says, "Yes, you fought for the right to vote. Now use it." It might be a good message to put on the bulletin board of your chapter home. [Applause.]

Of course, the DAV is a nonpolitical, nonpartisan organization. We cannot—and I wish to emphasize—we do not tell anybody else how to vote.

But as a chapter or department leader of the DAV, you need to know the records of your candidates on issues important to veterans. You need to know who is a friend of veterans and who is not. As responsible citizens, our members base their votes on a broad range of issues. And that's how it should be.

But we must get veterans' issues considered in their voting decisions. And there is nothing wrong with a little voter education.

Make sure your members understand issues facing disabled veterans, and once again, make sure they vote.

Some may think that the DAV is a small outfit, that it can't have much influence. Well, that's just not true. We are America's largest organization of disabled vets, and the largest organization of disabled people in this country. We are one of the top 50 nonprofit organizations in America. I am talking about organizations of all types, not just veterans groups.

We are not small potatoes. Not by a long shot. And if politicians see our members voting, we will get their attention.

Go back to your chapter, department, with fire in your heart. Hold aloft the true torch of patriotism. Light that flame in a very practical way that will make it happen for America's veterans and their families.

You and I suffered and bled to keep the flame of freedom burning. Make sure that sacrifice counts. Carry the fire to others. Set their hearts ablaze with the power of freedom. Thank you very much. [Rising applause.]

Commander MURPHY. Thank you, Billy, very much. At this time I'd like to introduce the new national senior vice-commander, Vern Cardosi, from Massachusetts for remarks.

Incoming Senior Vice-Commander VERNON V. CARDOSI. Thank you very much, Commander. My fellow officers, congratulations to you.

I'd like to begin by thanking the Nominating Committee and my fellow delegates for allowing me to continue to serve this great organization. To Dale Adams, Butch Joeckel, and your fine staff, I want to thank you for all your help and guidance over the past years. And I hope you continue.

Commander Murphy, the other day you claimed, and you said, that you had a banner year. I would like to go one better. We all had a banner year. Under your great leadership and your untiring service, you have been a credit to the DAV, and it's been a pleasure and an honor for me to serve with you this past year. Thank you. [Applause.]

I see a lot of Texans out there. And this is a big state. And we heard and we met a lot of great Texans this weekend.

But I'd like to tell you about one more great Texan. You all know him. We just elected our national commander, Billy Kirby. [Applause.]

To you, Billy Kirby, next year in Las Vegas, I wish for you to present to Las Vegas another banner year in your remarks. Finally, that all our hospital service coordinators in our program is fully implemented; and that, finally, we have elevated the VA to Cabinet-level status, and that the dream of Dale Adams is finally realized, and that we are a one-million-member organization. That I wish for you, Billy Kirby.

And if we all work together, we can realize that.

Now I'd like to introduce my strength, my bride, my wife of 31 years, Camille, and my water-logged son. We finally got him out of the pool today, Christopher. [Applause.]

And I would be remiss if I didn't say here this morning that I wouldn't be standing here if it wasn't for my great delegation from Massachusetts. I'd like to introduce our commander Charlie Snow and the entire delegation from district 1, Massachusetts. Please stand up. Thank you very much. God love you all. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander **Murphy**. At this time I'd like to call on newly-elected 1st junior vice Joseph E. Andryse of Ohio. [Applause.]

Incoming 1st Junior Vice-Commander **Joseph Andry**. Commander Murphy, national officers, staff, delegates to this convention: I'd like to congratulate Gene on the fine year he's had, and let National Commander-Elect Billy Kirby to know that he has my full support, and I believe the full support of everyone in this room.

And through the involvement of you delegates here, and the ones that are back at the chapters, I don't believe there is any challenge that we cannot meet. One thing that the DAV does, we might come upon adversity and challenges, but we always see a seed of opportunity, and we take and we sew that seed, and we reap the benefits.

We have done that with the transportation program. I'm sure there are going to be many more programs that come down the line.

My family wasn't able to come here today. But I want to thank them.

I'd also like to thank the co-chairmen, Robert L. O'Dell, Verne Nygaard, Roy Ward, Art Leach, and the entire delegation from the department of Ohio. I think they are in the back. And if they would stand, give them a round of applause, because they really helped me out, supported me through this all. [Applause.]

Again I want to thank the delegates here to the convention and from the Nominating Committee, also, for their support. And I really feel honored and privileged to serve in the national office and to represent you all out there. And I pledge to do my best. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander **Murphy**. At this time I'd like to introduce the newly-elected 2nd junior vice-commander, Cleve Jordan, of Washington, D.C., for remarks. [Applause.]

Incoming 2nd Junior Vice-Commander **Cleveland Jordan**. Thank you, Commander Murphy, Commander-Elect Kirby, other national officers and their families, National Adjutant Joeckel, and his staff in Washington, at the Washington headquarters, and Cincinnati headquarters.

The delegates to the 67th Annual Convention in Dallas, Texas: It is a pleasure for me to stand before you again this year. At this time one year ago in Atlanta, Georgia, I was at a loss for words to express my feeling for standing before you at that time.

There is no difference this year. All I can say is I would like to thank you for having given me an opportunity to serve as your national 3rd junior vice-commander.

I would like to thank you for letting me try to serve you again this year as your national 2nd junior vice-commander.

As I pledged my support to Commander Murphy in Atlanta, I'll do the same for Commander Kirby this year. You have my support, Commander Kirby.

The problems that we are faced with are numerous. Commander Kirby cannot do them alone. He will need your assistance to assist him and direct him in helping solving the problems we are faced with.

Last year in Atlanta, I stated that I—only two-thirds of my family were with me. This year I was able to bring the other third. I would like to at this time introduce my wife, Delores, and my son Carlton. [Applause.]

I thank the Nominating Committee for seeing fit to express their confidence in me. Thanks to my department, the department of D. C. Will you please stand? And the entire 6th district. Thank you all very much. [Applause.]

Commander Kirby, if I can be of any assistance to you in Washington, D.C., please do not hesitate. Do the same as Commander Murphy did. Give me the assignments. I will take them, rain, shine, sleet or snow. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Commander MURPHY. At this time it gives me pleasure to introduce the new national 3rd junior vice-commander, Harry Coyle, of Pennsylvania. [Applause.]

Incoming 3rd Junior Vice-Commander HARRY J. COYLE. Commander Murphy, newly-elected Commander Kirby, National Adjutant Butch Joeckel, staff, line officers, delegates: First I want to say thank you very much for the confidence and support you have given me last year, and again thank you this year for the support you have given me.

Newly-elected Commander Kirby, I pledge to you my support in the goals and objectives of this organization, so that we all can enjoy better benefits and better medical care that all of you delegates so richly deserve.

At this time I'd like to introduce to you—at this time I'd like to first thank the Pennsylvania delegation, if they will rise for a second, who have supported me all the way in the great State of Pennsylvania. [Applause.]

And I'd like to thank the Nominating Committee for their confidence in me.

I would also like to introduce to you my wife Andrea Coyle. I thank her for her support. And the Coyle rug rats are upstairs. They are staying there. Thank you again. [Applause.]

Commander MURPHY. At this time we would like to introduce the newly-elected 4th junior vice-commander, Greg Reed, of Indiana.

Incoming 4th Junior Vice-Commander GREGORY C. REED. Thank you. Commander Murphy, Commander-elect Billy Kirby, National Adjutant Butch Joeckel: Wow. I am sitting at the end of this table thinking what I could say. I started to write some things down. I can't do that.

I just want to tell you that before you stands a very, very humble and very proud man.

I am a former National Service Officer, just like Mr. Kirby. And service, in my opinion, is the lifeline of this organization.

I will continue to work for this organization. I will support Commander Kirby and all of our programs.

I want to thank the Indiana delegation for their faith, also my good friends from Ohio and Kentucky. And I shall not disappoint you. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Commander **Murphy**. At this time I would like to introduce the new national judge advocate, Stan Pealer, from Missouri.

Incoming Judge Advocate **Stan Pealer**. Thank you very much, Commander Murphy. Commander-elect Kirby, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the 67th Annual Convention of the Disabled American Veterans: Eight years ago I stood before this podium when you honored me with one of the highest honors I have ever received in my entire life, and that's when I accepted the office that you graciously gave me to serve as your national commander.

Now here eight years later, again, I come before you very privileged and very honored to accept the office of national judge advocate.

You know, we in this organization are so elite, we are so much different than most of the ongoing organizations, whether they be veterans organizations or just civic, and that is because we pull together as a team. We as an organization have accomplished what the outstanding leaders, not only in the elected officials but our staff in Cincinnati and Washington, we have accomplished almost the impossible, that some organizations just dream about.

And because of that teamwork is what makes me feel so proud to stand here before you today and say, yes, I certainly want to be a part of that team again. I want to be a part of that team on the national level and to serve as your national adjutant.

And I hope that as each and every one of you go back to your home states that every endeavor that you undertake, that it will be to work toward helping push that team, and to help that team achieve even greater heights under the leadership of the newly-elected national commander, Billy Kirby, and under the leadership of a new national adjutant, Charles "Butch" Joeckel, I am sure that each and every one of us in the DAV, we can help them even bring the DAV to greater heights than we have ever seen in the history of this organization.

So with that, again, I am very pleased and very honored that you have chosen me to serve in the national level once again.

I would like to take this opportunity to—I am very pleased to take the opportunity to once again introduce to you my lovely wife Ann and our youngest daughter Stephani. [Applause.]

Thank you so much. Commander-elect Kirby, I pledge to you my total support, and that I will be a part of your team.

Adjutant Butch Joeckel, I pledge to you my total support, and that I will be a part of your team. And to each of you, the delegates of the Disabled American Veterans, I pledge to you that any and all that I do throughout this next twelve months will be for the betterment and on behalf of this nation's war disabled. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander **Murphy**. We would like to introduce the national chaplain, Reverend Carl Bergstrom from Massachusetts. [Applause.]

Chaplain **Bergstrom**. Thank you, Commander Murphy. Commander-elect Kirby and duly-elected officers and delegates of the 67th DAV convention: I thank you for your support.

As chaplain, the highest task that I have before me is to consider the next memorial service. I have watched that grow over the years. I think it has a great deal of meaning to you. I'm sure it does. It has a great deal of meaning to me.

It is the one time that we remember many of our comrades who have done so much for us over the past and who have set this organization in motion and given us the foundation and the guidelines to continue it.

And so, Commander Kirby, I will pledge to you that I will do my utmost to make next year's memorial service the very best that it can possibly be.

I thank each and every one of you, and I pledge you my support. And I will ask you for your support, because we work as a team. That's the only way we can get through.

God bless you all. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Commander **Murphy**. Let's really give these new elected officers a standing ovation. [Rising applause.]

We will now continue with the unfinished business of the convention. At this time we would like to read a resolution commending the VA personnel for assisting at this National Convention.

Extend appreciation to the Veterans Administration Medical Center, Dallas, Texas, for the success of the 67th National Convention.

Whereas, the success of the 67th National Convention convened in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988 depended on the total cooperation and unselfish devotion of VA officials both in Washington, D.C. and Dallas, Texas; and,

Whereas, many delegates to our National Convention were in need of medical treatment and required the assistance of prosthetic equipment to attend the National Convention; and,

Whereas, in response to this, the health care officials from the VA Medical Center, Dallas, Texas, have staffed and maintained in the convention hotel an excellent outpatient clinic and prosthetic service; and,

Whereas, the medical care and prosthetic services rendered to the delegates to this 67th National Convention have been extended in a most compassionate manner and has been of the highest quality; Now,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Disabled American Veterans in National Convention assembled in Dallas, Texas, July 24–28, 1988, express its sincere appreciation to the Veterans Administration Medical Center, Dallas, Texas, whose dedication to the care and treatment of the delegates to this 67th National Convention has made our convention a successful one. [Applause.]

Mike 2.

Mr. **Lennox E. Gilmer**. Len Gilmer, chapter 36, Virginia. We move the motion you have just read, Commander.

Mike 1.

Mr. **Albert H. Linden**. Al Linden, delegate, chapter 93, Florida, seconds the motion.

Commander **Murphy**. On the motion, discussion. All in favor say Aye. All against say Nay. So moved.

Mike 2, is that Joe Harold again?

Mr. **Joseph Harold**. That's me. Maybe you will give me a pardon after this one.

Commander **Murphy**. Mike 2.

Mr. **Harold**. Commander, Joe Harold, Boston, 10. I would like to speak for myself personally. I hope the delegates here also agree with me.

I think you have done us proud this year, as you have followed in the tradition of all the other national commanders. You have done the job you have done; you have done it under extreme hardship, like some of the others have done, and I was really proud of you every time I have seen you.

I notice that you have been smiling the whole convention. I know Ken Musselmann didn't smile till the last day. [Laughter.]. But you have that smile on you, and I'm so happy for you. And I wish the delegates would just give you that DAV thank you, if they would all rise up and say "Thank you, Gene." [Rising applause.]

Commander **Murphy**. Thank you very much. You are a super family.

At this time I would like to call on our national adjutant, Charles E. Joeckel, for announcements.

Adjutant **Joeckel**. The newly-elected NEC members: 2nd district, Prospero Sodano; 4th district, Roy F. Friedman; 6th district, Harry E. Hughes; 7th district, Forrest G. Kidwell; 8th district, Hollis O. Bridges; 10th district, Russell Spalding; 12th district, Desmond Fortner; 14th district, Roger Andal; 16th district, Donald J. Pouliot; 18th district, George Y. Taketa; 20th district, Armando Albarran.

Commander **Murphy**. Thank you, Butch. At this time I would like to entertain a motion for adjournment of the convention.

Mike 2.

Past National Commander **Frank J. Randazzo**. Past national commander Frank Randazzo, move that we close the 67th National Convention of the DAV sine die.

Commander **Murphy**. Do I have a second? Mike 2.

Mr. **Harold**. Harold Boston, 10, seconds that motion.

Commander **Murphy**. At this time I would like to ask Reverend Carl Bergstrom to lead us in prayer.

Chaplain **Bergstrom**. We would pray to the author of all creation that as we have completed this convention and have elected our officers, our leaders for the following year, we pledge our support for them, and pray for their health, strength and well-being, that they may lead the membership to serve the disabled veteran, his dependent, his orphans.

We pray again, though, for those who are absent from us, whether they be prisoners of war, or whether this life is no longer large enough to contain their spirits and even now they are at rest with Thee.

Until we meet again, may God bless preserve and keep you and your loved ones now and always. Amen.

Commander **Murphy**. At this time we would ask the Department of Massachusetts Honor Guard to retire the colors.

[Retirement of the Colors.]

Commander **Murphy**. Let's give the Department of Massachusetts Honor Guard a hand. [Applause.]

Ladies and gentlemen, the 67th Convention of the Disabled American Veterans is now adjourned. Thank you.

[Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 o'clock a.m. on August 28, 1988.]

PROCEEDINGS

of the

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY

1988 NATIONAL CONVENTION

MARRIOTT MARQUIS HOTEL

ATLANTA, GA

AUGUST 17, 18, AND 20, 1988

CONTENTS

Page

Monday Morning Session, July 25, 1988:

Call to Order, Commander Katherine E. Pearson 251
Introductions 252
Greetings from Past Officers 253
Greetings from National Convention Chairman 253
Adoption of Convention Rules 255
Credentials Committee Report 256
Chaplain's Report 256
4th Junior Vice-Commander's Report 257
3rd Junior Vice-Commander's Report 258
DAV Chaplain's Report 262
2nd Junior Vice-Commander's Report 264
1st Junior Vice-Commander's Report 268
Senior Vice-Commanders's Report 272
Commander's Report 275
Remarks, Immediate Past National Commander Loneita Shoemaker 281
Historian Report 281
Committee Assignments 286
Recess 288

Tuesday Morning Session, July 26, 1988:

Call to Order, Commander Katherine E. Pearson 289
Credentials Committee Report 289
Americanism Report and Awards 290
Community Service Report and Awards 290
First Reading of Constitution and Bylaws Amendments 292
History Committee Report and Awards 292
Hospital Representative Report 295
Hospital Committee Report and Awards 296
Junior Activities Committee Report and Awards 298
Legislative Committee Report and Awards 300
Membership Committee Report and Awards 302
VAVS Representative Report 304
VAVS Committee Report and Awards 307
Mae Holmes Committee Report and Awards 309
Recess 310

Tuesday Afternoon Session, July 26, 1988:

Call to Order, Commander Katherine E. Pearson 311
Finance Committee Report 311
Second Reading of Constitution and Bylaws Amendments 312
Presentation 327
Education Loan Fund 328
Recess 337

Thursday Morning Session, July 28, 1988:

Call to Order, Commander Katherine E. Pearson 337
Thanks to Pages 339
Final Credentials Report 340
Nominating Committee Report 341
Installation 352
Adjournment 366

INDEX OF MOTIONS

Motion	Page	Action	Page
Adopt Convention Rules	255	No action	
Amend	255	Carried	255
Adopt Convention Rules, as amended	256	Carried	256
Accept Commander's report	281	Carried	281
Accept officers' report	286	Carried	286
Adopt budget	311	Carried	312
Adopt Constitution and Bylaw Amendments:			
Create new Article IV	313	Carried	313
Renumber following articles and sections	313	Carried	313
Article III, Section 5.1	313	Carried	313
Article V, add new Section 7, etc	314	Carried	314
Article VI.B.2.A	314	Carried	314
Article VIII, Section 1	314	Carried	315
Article VIII, Section 3	315	Carried	316
Article VIII, Section 4.3	316	Carried	316
Article VIII, Section 5.2	316	Carried	316
Article VIII, Section 5.7	316	Carried	316
Article VIII, Section 10.3	317	Carried	317
Article VIII, Section 12	317	Carried	317
Article IX, Section 2	318	Carried	319
Article XII, Section 4	319	Lost	321
Article XIII, Section 1	322	Carried	322
Article II, Section 3.2	322	Carried	322
Article II, Section 4	323	Lost	324
Article III, Section 3.9	324	Carried	324
Article VI, Section 1.8.4	325	Carried	325
Article VII, Section 7	325	Carried	325
Closing Ceremony	326	Carried	326

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY 1988 NATIONAL CONVENTION HELD AT THE LOEWS ANATOLE HOTEL, DALLAS, TEXAS, JULY 25-28, 1988

MONDAY MORNING BUSINESS SESSION

July 25, 1988

The Monday Morning Business Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary 66th National Convention convened in the Grand Ballroom of the Loews Anatole Hotel, Dallas, Texas, July 25, 1988, and was called to order at 9:00 o'clock a.m. by National Commander Katherine E. Pearson.

National Commander KATHERINE E. PEARSON. The National Conference of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary will now come to order. National Adjutant, will you please announce the programs?

National Adjutant MARIA TEDROW. Will the National Sergeant-at-Arms present the Department Colors.

[Presentation of Colors.]

Adjutant TEDROW. Will the National Sergeant-at-Arms see that the Past National Commanders and Past National Adjutant be escorted to the chairs in the front of the room. [Applause.]

Will the pages now escort the Officers and Convention Chairman to the stage. [Applause.]

And Junior Past National Commander Loneita Shoemaker. [Applause.]

Will the National Sergeant-at-Arms present the National Colors. Will the National Sergeant-at-Arms post colors.

We will now have the prayer by National Chaplain Judy Uetterling.

National Chaplain JUDITH UETTERLING. Let us pray. Dear Lord, we are praying for justice, food for the hungry, clothes for the naked, economy, justice for the poor, so please give us courage to make these and other changes in our life and to know that sometimes disappointments are stepping-stones for our growth. Amen.

Adjutant TEDROW. The Pledge of Allegiance will be given by Myrtice Vinson, Americanism chairman.

3rd Jr. Vice-Commander MYRTICE VINSON. Please stand tall like proud Americans and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

[Pledge of Allegiance.]

Adjutant TEDROW. Carolyn Cox, Convention Musician, will play "The Star Spangled Banner," and let's all sing.

[National Anthem.]

Adjutant Tedrow. National Sergeant-at-Arms, will you see that the color bearers are dismissed. [Applause.]

Pursuant to the provisions of Articles I and II of the Bylaws of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, and by the authority of the National Executive Committee, I, Maria M. Tedrow, National Adjutant, hereby pronounce and declare that this 66th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary be convened in Dallas, Texas.

Consideration and disposition of business brought before this convention shall be conducted in accordance with the National Constitution and Bylaws and the Ritual of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, as most recently amended.

To all present, take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly.

It gives me a great deal of honor—and I know that some of you were wondering where she was, but our National Auxiliary Commander requested this year that she be at the podium when the colors and the officers were brought in. So we didn't lose Katherine Pearson. We've got her right here. May I at this time introduce to you National Auxiliary Commander Katherine Pearson. [Applause.]

Commander Pearson. Thank you, Maria. Howdy partners! And welcome to the 66th National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Women's Auxiliary.

I know you are all ready and real eager to participate in the convention activities and certainly to serve on convention committees. So please bring forth your ideas to prepare for our future programs, for it is through your deliberations and mandates at this convention that the Auxiliary can prepare to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

It is important to project your views in the best interests of the veterans and their families. It is by focusing in on the needs of the veteran's dependents that can create more awareness and sensitivity for a better way of life. It is then that we can fully justify our purpose of being the Auxiliary to the Disabled American Veterans.

May all of your wishes come true. May you enjoy this convention.

And at this time now, I have a very special privilege and honor to introduce to you ladies who have built the foundation of this Auxiliary. They are ladies that are very dedicated. They didn't just serve their year as National Commander. They have supported us with each year coming to the convention, fall conferences. And I'm so very proud of each and every one of the individuals.

And as I look back on their history, they served at that day and time in the best interests of our veterans and our families.

And now, would you hold your applause as I present to you these very special ladies: Catherine Early, Lucille McCarthy, Mildred Taylor, Pauline Wright, Nelda Wilson, Dorothy Van Hoy, Mary Beth Schulze, Thelma Williamson, Florence Valgardson, Maurine Pederson, Maria Tedrow, Betty Hall, Eva Rodgers, Florence Daley, Sally Wilton, Betty Wimmer, and Loneita Shoemaker. [Applause.]

I'd also like to present a very special person who was dedicated to our Auxiliary for many, many years: Our past national adjutant, Kit Feighner. [Applause.]

Thank you, girls.

And at this time now, I would like to call Mary Beth Schulze to bring greetings on behalf of this wonderful group.

Past National Commander MARY BETH SCHULZE. Hello, Katherine. National Commander Katherine, national officers, delegates and guests: I consider it a great honor to represent the past national commanders of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, and to extend greetings to you in their behalf.

It's so good to come to the conventions every year and see the familiar faces of those who come to many, many conventions and smile at you when you walk in and make you really feel good. But's also good to see the many new faces that are here and to get a chance to talk to these ladies.

We welcome all of you and hope that you share our enthusiasm in looking forward to the constructive part of our convention, as well as the fun times that we'll be having this week.

We as past national commanders hope that we may help to inspire each and every one of you to accomplish great things in building this organization, our DAV Auxiliary, to be the greatest in the nation through your dedication, love and devotion to our veterans and their families.

We appreciate your recognizing us as part of this convention and allowing us to extend greetings to you. Katherine, we wish for you a very successful convention. We're confident that we'll be a source of pride and joy to you and give you many wonderful memories in the years to come.

We're all here to give you our support and wish for you the best convention ever. Thank you.

Commander PEARSON. Thank you. [Applause.] Thank you very much, Mary Beth.

And now, I'd like to present to you someone who has worked all year long to give us the type of convention that Texas can give, and I now present to you Dovey Hawkins, our National Convention Chairman, to give greetings. [Applause.]

Ms. DOVEY HAWKINS. I believe somebody's already been Texanizing our national commander. Commander Katherine, national officers, past national commanders, delegates and guests: On behalf of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, Department of Texas, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to welcome all of you to our beautiful Lone Star State, and to the City of Dallas.

The Auxiliary members in our Metroplex Area, which includes Dallas and Fort Worth and the surrounding small towns, have worked very hard in preparing for this convention, and without their willing assistance, I would have been in a whole heap of trouble. So, as national convention chairman, I salute each one of you and also all of them.

At this time, I would like to introduce to you our Department Auxiliary Commander, Evelyn Shilling. Evelyn, would you stand up, please? [Applause.] There she is.

Her line officers and all the unit members in this area have worked—Texas is a large state, so we have sort of had to do it by mail and meetings where we could get into our business. So I would like to have, first of all, all the members that are here from the Metroplex units to stand up, please, those of you who have actively participated in our convention. All the Metroplex units. [Applause.]

And now, would all the rest of the Texans join them, please. [Applause.] We are very pleased to have this many. That looks like a department convention.

The City of Dallas is a very exciting place to be, and there are many places of interest to see and things to do. But we hope you do them all in your spare time, not during business meetings.

Tonight the DAV Department of Texas has planned some very good entertainment for you. Hank Thompson and the Brazos Valley Boys, who were his original group that worked with him back when he first began, are going to appear, and I think you will enjoy him greatly. And our own local band, Joe Paul Nichols and the Five Pennies, which the Texas delegation know quite well, will be appearing with him tonight. And also they'll be appearing on Tuesday night.

And I was rather amused last evening. A man was talking to me and wanted to know who was going to appear, who's going to be the star tonight, and I told him, and he said, "Is that a boy or a girl?" [Laughter.] So I feel sure that Hank is going to really get a kick out of that when I tell him. He's an old and trusted friend of my husband of many years.

We have an interesting program for the Forget-me-Not Luncheon on Wednesday, and it's so interesting that we ended up changing horses in the middle of the stream. So who it says is going to appear is not going to be here.

So we'll have that, and then also the National History chairman, Margaret Hass, will present the history book to our national commander, which I'm sure you're looking forward to, to see all the things that went on.

Commander Katherine, on behalf of the Department of Texas, we would like to present you with an honorary citizen of Texas. But before we do that, every Texan, according to everybody's belief, thinks that everybody has an oil well or a longhorn steer. So I did find you an oil well. That's your personal oil well. [Laughter.]

And we couldn't find a longhorn steer, so I believe this is Ferdinand. So you can sit under the tree with him and smell the flowers later on.

Commander **Pearson**. Thank you. [Applause.]

Ms. **Hawkins**. And this is your certificate. It says:

> The State of Texas, All To Whom These Presents Shall Come, Greetings: Know you that Katherine Pearson is hereby commissioned an honorary Texas citizen under the laws of the State of Texas with all rights, privileges and emoluments pertaining to this office.
>
> In testimony whereof, I have signed my name and caused the seal of the state to be affixed at the City of Austin this 22nd day of July, 1988. William P. Clemmons, Jr., Governor of Texas.

[Applause.]

And we would like for you to open this one right now. We decided that she needed a bonnet, so when we had our meeting, I suggested a bonnet, and then somebody brought up a split—I said a split bonnet, and somebody else says a slat bonnet, so we're not sure what you call it. But it has bluebonnets on the back of it.

And if you'd like to model for the photographers, if someone wants to take a picture. [Laughter and applause.]

And this was made by Commander Walderine Sullins from Betty's Unit Number 11, and our auxiliary commander from Number 32 made this, and I sure was glad that I saw somebody with one on this morning, so I'd know how to show you how to wear it.

Commander PEARSON. Oh, thank you so very, very much.

DOVEY HAWKINS. And this one also we would like to have you open, so all of our Texas ladies could see it. Some of them don't come to the luncheon, so we would like for them to see what—[laughter]. We thought when you used that that you'd have fond memories of Texas. And there's bluebonnets on the back. We're sort of bluebonnet oriented. That's our state flower.

On behalf of all of those assembled here, we congratulate you on the accomplishments that have happened through this year, and we hope that you have an excellent convention, and we'll do our very best, and if I can help you in any way, well, please let me know. [Applause.]

Commander PEARSON. Thank you. And with you as chairman, and all those wonderful gals from the Big D and surrounding areas, I know we're going to have a great convention, and I knew it sounds like it's going to be a lot of fun. We're just really looking forward to that fun time tonight, too. Thank you.

The first order of business is the adoption of the National Convention Rules. Printed copies of the Convention Rules have been furnished to all registered delegates. The Chair will now entertain a motion for the adoption of these Rules.

Adjutant TEDROW. Madam Commander, may I take the privilege as Past National Commander Maria Tedrow to move that the printed Convention Rules be adopted?

Commander PEARSON. There's a motion that the National Convention Rules as printed will be adopted.

Annette Wilson.

NEC 14th District ANNETTE BAIN WILSON. I move that present Rule 20 be deleted and that the following rule be substituted. Rule 20 would then read, "One seconding speech, limited to five minutes, may be made for each candidate." I move the new rule be adopted.

Commander PEARSON. There's a motion by Annette Wilson to delete—she moved that the present Rule 20 be deleted, and that the following rule be substituted. Rule 20 would read, "The seconding speech, limited to five minutes, may be made for each candidate." Lucille. Lucille McCarthy, PNC has seconded the motion.

What is your wish? Any question? All in favor; opposed, No. The Ayes have it. This rule will be adopted.

The Convention Rules will be adopted with the correction of Rule Number 20.

We will now have the preliminary report of the Credentials Committee by the Credentials chairman. Oops'. The beginning of my mistakes.

Adjutant TEDROW. Madam Commander, I move that the Convention Rules as amended be adopted.

Commander PEARSON. Maria Tedrow, past national commander, moves that the Rules as amended would be adopted. Past National Commander Dorothy Van Hoy seconds that motion. Are you all in favor? Opposed. Motion carried. Thank you.

We will now have the preliminary report from the Credentials Committee by the Credentials chairman, Mozelle Parker.

CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN. Good morning! Aren't you happy to be here? Right. Commander Pearson, national officers, national committeewomen, past national commanders, delegates, alternates and guests—we're going to get down to business now—this will be the first reading. I know you've looked around and wondered how many are here.

There are registered units, 333; departments registered, 43; delegates registered, 746; alternates, 80; 158 guests have registered. For the votes, we have a total unit vote, 2,259; 43 department votes; national officers, chairmen and NECs, 29 votes; past national commanders, 16 votes, for a grand total of 2,348.

Now, the following departments or units, in order to be cleared for voting, need to see Pat Kemper in the Headquarters Office. So if you will, if I call your name, if you will see Pat in the Headquarters Office, she will get you cleared. The Department of Alabama; Arkansas Number 12; Connecticut Number 21; Florida Number 20; Florida Number 40; the Department of Kentucky; Michigan Number 110; Mississippi Number 26; Missouri Number 1; New York Number 5; New York Number 126; Tennessee Unit Number 76; Texas Unit Number 3; Texas Number 78; Texas 106; Texas Unit Number 186; Texas Unit Number 208; West Virginia Number 6; the Department of Wyoming; Philippines Number 12; Puerto Rico Number 6.

The Department of Iowa, in order to be cleared with National, you need to see National Judge Advocate Evelyn Ramirez.

Madam Commander, this concludes the first reading.

Commander PEARSON. Thank you very much.

We will now have the officers' reports. National Chaplain Judy Uetterling.

Chaplain UETTERLING. Good morning, ladies. National Commander Pearson, national officers, members and guests: It has been an honor to serve as your chaplain this year. As your chaplain, I am saddened to report that there were over 700 deaths reported to me this year through National.

I have found this year, when sending out bulletins, I would use words from my heart, and at times would rely on others. Excuse me, ladies, but I've just got new bifocals, and I can't seem to adjust this line.

I've had a beautiful year as your chaplain, but we've had one special person in my heart, my father, has been seriously ill this year. He's now completely bedridden and cannot talk any more. He has not been a very affectionate man as far as touching, but he and I have found this year, and I have learned this year that just through touching someone you can really convey a lot.

I hope I have helped you, as many of you have helped me. I have attended all my unit meetings and worked at bingo, attended my department convention and also attended Indiana's convention for a day, and they are beautiful ladies. I also took a mini-vacation to attend National Commander Pearson's testimonial dinner where we had a great time.

Commander **Pearson**. Thank you, Judy, and thank you for your spiritual guidance during this past year. [Applause.]

We will now hear from the National Fourth Junior Vice, Bonita Newell.

4th Jr. Vice-Commander **Bonita Newell**. Thank you, Madam Commander. Good morning. Probably each one of us is going to just test you and make sure you know it's morning, and after seeing that Texas congregation, I can see why we have a likely number also.

Madam Commander Katherine, national officers, members and guests: Another year is passing, and I feel privileged indeed to have served the national organization and its members with the title of fourth junior vice-commander, also serving as chairman on the Community Service.

In tabulating the reports on Community Service, seven states were late in sending their reports in, and therefore the units were not given credit for the job well done. And, of course, naturally, they would not be on the checkoff list. I did send National Headquarters as many as possible for them to check, and, of course, this was done with the permission of our national adjutant, Maria. Others were just too late.

One state did not send in any reports, and a few outdated report forms were used. There were some units with very little activity, or none at all.

The reports showing the order of service rendered: Number 1, family services; Number 2, general services to the community; Number 3, recreation and entertainment; 4, professional and trade services.

Tabulations showed: Total miles in just round numbers, because you will not remember all that different little number thing, nearly five million miles were given to this cause; total hours, a million and a half hours were given; total unit donations, a little over half of the donations given, was 594,125; value of other donations, three and a half million also. Those are big figures, but that also is a lot of time given, because, you know, giving for community service is most important to begin with.

The reports were neat and the information complete in the majority of these reports.

My year's activities began in September, attending the Annual All Patients Activities Day in Fort Lyon, the VAMC in Colorado. On this day, volunteers from throughout the state entertain the patients with games and prizes in a carnival-like atmosphere and serve them lunch, and entertainment on the grounds was the most important part of it.

I attended the annual fall conference in Cincinnati on October the 22nd to the 23rd, and on November the 6th through the 8th, I attended the District Number 17 meeting held in Salt Lake City, Utah.

I am pleased to report the following trips were taken and representing our National DAV Auxiliary at that when I did attend these: December 4th through the 5th, District Number 6 meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia; January 16th and 17th, the midwinter conference in Dothan, Alabama; February 20th to the 23rd, midwinter conference in Washington, D. C. I wished to be present and support the commander, Mr. Murphy, in his presentation to the Veterans Affairs Committee of the House and Senate, and I found it to be most interesting, and certainly, I'm sure that it proved that we were all interested in his endeavor.

March 25th to the 27th, Commander Katherine's testimonial dinner in Minneapolis, Minnesota. April the 15th to the 17th, I attended the annual spring luncheon in Salt Lake City, Utah; May 6th through the 8th, the state convention at Sioux City, Iowa; June 3 through the 6th, state convention in Fairmount, West Virginia; June 9 through the 10th, state convention in Charlottesville, Virginia.

I learned to know that your Southern people have that beautiful Southern hospitality that they're so well known for, because I received a portion of it.

I attended my own state convention in Fort Collins, Colorado, as a member.

I might add that I was entertained royally by the members of each state and certainly was impressed by their sincerity and loyalty shown to their meetings and social fuctions. The hospitality shown to me was most impressive. Everyone aimed to please, and that they certainly accomplished.

In closing, I would be remiss if didn't thank the great staff of National Headquarters, and who could function so well in a national office or national chairmanship without the protective and informative guidance of our own Maria M. Tedrow, National Adjutant. Thank you, Maria. And a special thank you to our Assistant Adjutant, Judy Hezlep.

I wish to thank each and every member that I had the pleasure to meet this year in my travels, and I know everything was great, and you do, too.

Last, but not least, I certainly enjoyed serving with Commander Katherine and all other national officers throughout this year. And I want to close with this, sincerely thank you for everything.

We'll have a good convention. [Applause.]

Commander PEARSON. Thank you. And thank you for representing the national organization so well and your hard-working Community Services. Thank you so much.

And now we'll hear from our National Vice-Commander, Myrtice Vinson.

3rd Jr. Vice-Commander VINSON. Good morning. Have you ever seen a person that had to remove their glasses in order to walk? [Laughter.]

National Commander Katherine, national officers, past national commanders, delegates and guests: Abraham Lincoln, in his speech at Gettysburg, said in part that this nation under God shall have new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from this earth.

The members of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary throughout America have displayed that they are proud to be Americans with the rebirth of patriotism. Patriotism was demonstrated in many, many ways. To name just a few: Through Americanism programs, parades, memorials, essays, distributing literature, urging members to vote, donating flags and flag poles, donating money to foundations, and by proudly flying the American flag on holidays.

Through your continued patriotic spirit, I believe that patriotism will be passed on to our children and grandchildren, and that they, too, will be proud to be Americans and always patriotic citizens.

I received a total of 1,044 reports. However, at the time that I was required to submit my report to National Headquarters, I had not received reports from seven states, and of those that I did receive, 38 were postmarked on May 31st and 15 were postmarked on June 6th.

Since this is the first year that the reports were mailed to the national chairman by state departments, I believe that in fairness to all units that possibly mailed their reports in on time, those reports that were received late should also be considered, and they were.

I was saddened to receive so many reports with no activity, only the unit name and number. These reports were signed by unit commanders or Americanism chairmen. I believe that members of every unit participated in Americanism in some form throughout the year. I wonder how and why would anyone take the time or spend the postage to mail a report with cross marks on it.

We did have great participation, though. There were a thousand and ninety-four Americanism programs held. Eighty-one units sponsored essay contests; 272 units sponsored programs during "Know Your America Week"; 987 units urged members to vote; and 146 units assisted members to become American citizens. Our members distributed 69,412 pieces of literature, donated 28,402 American flags, 509 flagpoles, with a total cost of $24,019.36.

Members of our Auxiliary donated $8,743 to Freedoms Foundation, participated in 1,457 parades, held 4,626 programs during unit meetings. We had 484 units supporting the POW-MIA program, and 891 units observed holidays and proudly flew the American flag.

Now, these totals prove that we are proud to be Americans.

At this time, I want to sincerely thank each unit that submitted reports. All of us can stand tall and proudly join hand in hand, brave Americans all. By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall.

It has been an honor and a privilege for me to serve as National American chairman this year. I am most appreciative to you. Commander Katherine, for this appointment.

And now just a little personal note: It has been an honor and as esteemed privilege to serve as the national junior third vice-commander of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary for the past year. I'm sure you realize that I'm grateful to you, the members, for this honor.

It is not my purpose at this time to weary you with a long speech, because I feel it would be a poor reward for your kindness. Instead, I propose to give you a brief report of my activities as third junior vice-commander.

It has been a busy, yet rewarding year for me, a year that will remain in my memory forever. It all began after I returned home from the national convention in Atlanta, when my own chapter and auxiliary unit, Number 50, honored me with a beautiful reception and what they called "A Love Roast." The roasters included past commanders, co-workers and national service officers, and, would you believe, my minister. [Laughter.]

I'm still baffled as to where they obtained some of their information.

October found me attending the Auxiliary fall conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, and presenting the Americanism program. In November, I was honored to represent the national organization at District 3's conference in Vermont. NEC Alma Tucci, National 2nd Junior Vice-Commander Claudia Roy, and all the members of the 3rd District were most gracious.

Late November, we were advised at Robbins Air Force Base that the proposed early retirement was going to be approved for Robbins employees. I immediately began making plans to retire. When I finally convinced my boss that, oh, yes, I am a half a hundred and I am serious about retiring, there were a series of retirement luncheons and parties. I officially retired on December 30, 1987.

January found me attending the midwinter conference in the State of Florida. State Commander Irene Stevens, Past National Commander Lucille McCarthy, NEC Fannie Proctor, Charlene Meeks and all the ladies made me queen for the weekend. This was an outstanding conference. Irene Stevens is to be commended for her organizational ability. She really had it all together.

The department chairmen presented excellent reports. However, I wish every American could have witnessed the outstanding Americanism program that was presented by Americanism Chairman Ann Rice.

We were entertained by a 100-voice choir dressed in red, white and blue, singing patriotic songs and performing like proud Americans. During this performance, Lady Liberty, the melting pot, and superb other symbols of our freedom made appearances. I grant you that the audience was constantly on their feet, and there was not a dry eye in the auditorium.

Also during the month of January. I was invited to serve as a narrator for a fashion show. That was fun, because there were not any cue cards to describe what the fashion models were wearing. You should try that one sometime.

February was another busy month. I was honored to serve as speaker for a special Americanism program sponsored by my own unit, Number 50. I also presented Americanism programs to two elementary schools.

During February I purchased a wreath and presented the same honoring POW-MIAs at the opening ceremonies at the moving Vietnam Wall's visit to Macon. During this week, I also served as a volunteer at the information booth.

March found me making hotel reservations and arranging transportation in our chapter's van for our National Commander Katherine's visit to Macon, or to Georgia, rather. Commander Katherine presented her state flag to the POW Museum in Andersonville National Cemetery in Andersonville, Georgia. Past National Commander of the DAV Lyle accompanied his wife to Georgia. It was a short visit, but all of us in Georgia enjoyed our national commander and her husband. Thank you, Katherine.

In April, I assisted with Schools of Instruction held in the northern and southern areas of Georgia. And don't ever retire, folks, because people everywhere just say, "Oh, she doesn't have a thing to do now she doesn't have to go work, so she can do it."

So I researched records, called many members and prepared a history for my chapter and Auxiliary during their history celebration. Letters were written to every chapter member inviting them to attend. I am very proud to tell you that we had our first unit commander attending with me.

Early May, I was on my way back to New England for the Rhode Island State convention. Commander Rita Minuttelli, NEC Alma Tucci, and all the ladies were most gracious. Rita was very poised and did an outstanding job presiding. I was honored to serve as the installing office for the newly elected state officers.

Late May I was headed to the state convention in Colorado. Commander Rose Hurst, Past National Commanders Pauline Wright and Eva Rodgers, National 4th Junior Vice-Commander Bonny Newell, NEC Myrtle Shakespeare, and all the members of Colorado showered me with as much hospitality as any normal person could handle. This was a great convention. I'm sure I need not tell you that the State of Colorado is second to none in service to Disabled Veterans and their Auxiliary. [Applause.]

In the State of Colorado, the Auxiliary members receive calls. They have their own hospital coordinator. They receive calls and transport patients to and from VA Medical Centers.

Auxiliary members were presented pins in recognition for their services. I was impressed with the banquet honoring life members of the DAV Auxiliary. Only lifers were eligible to attend, a great incentive for increasing life membership.

June was the busiest of all months. First there was my own state convention, where we were honored to have Senior Vice-Commander Rose as our national representative. Rose being from Missouri sure did show Georgia that she was truly a rose with a warm, pleasant personality. Everyone in Georgia enjoyed Rose. And we were also honored to have our NEC, Alice Poteat, with us during our convention.

Thank you, Rose, for all your graciousness during our convention.

June the 9th through the 11th, I attended the state convention in Madison, Wisconsin.

State Commander Beverly Slater, Past National Commander Betty Wimmer, NEC Lorraine Hanna and all the members showered me with love and attention. I was also honored, showered with confetti thrown all over me as I was about to leave for my plane trip home.

I participated in a beautiful memorial service while there and installed the newly elected officers.

June 16th I was on my way to Delaware. I missed a flight in Atlanta, so it threw me far, far late, but thanks to God—and I did pray on that one—NEC Betty Slacum was waiting for me at the airport.

This was a great convention, a relaxed atmosphere. Commander Geraldine Marsh was a lovely presiding officer. I was highly impressed with the performance of a high school band. These students sang and danced during that performance, which was designed to urge teens to say No to drugs. I enjoyed singing and dancing with those students.

I also installed the newly elected officers in the State of Delaware.

My last convention assignment was the State of Arkansas, and what a way to end the year! Past National Commander Loneita Shoemaker met me at the airport in Little Rock, and I was driven to Hot Springs. Now, if you want to go where the action is, Arkansas is the place to go. Commander Patricia McCoo handled the business of the convention with proficiency, so much so until there was lots of time for fun.

First we enjoyed a western night. The next night was Hawaiian night. We were all dressed in Hawaiian attire. Food was prepared for the occasion, and we were entertained by Hawaiian dancers.

Everyone in Arkansas was very gracious, and I began to wonder if it wasn't because we were all Southerners. At least we all talked alike. [Laughter.] I attended my unit meetings where I served as adjutant and treasurer. I mailed four bulletins through National Headquarters and answered all correspondence.

I want to congratulate our National Commander Katherine for a job well done this year, and to each fellow officer for their fine performance. It has been a great honor for me to be a part of this team. Special thanks to National Adjutant Maria Tedrow, Assistant National Adjutant Judy, the entire office staff for their assistance. What a great team we have, always ready to aid and assist us.

Thanks also to National Judge Advocate Evelyn Ramirez and my dear, trusted friend, Past National Commander Lucille McCarthy, for all their support and guidance.

All of us in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary can be proud of our organization. Let's join together and make it bigger and better in the years ahead. We can do it as partners in service. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander PEARSON. Thank you, Myrtice, for a very fine report, and your Americanism bulletins throughout the year did give us a new vision on America.

At this this time, I am going to place the rest of the officers on hold, because we have a very special guest. Would the National Sergeant-at-Arms please escort our National Disabled American Veterans Chaplain Carl Bergstrom to the podium, please? Please rise. [Applause.]

Welcome, welcome to our convention.

DAV Chaplain CARL BERGSTOM. Thank you, Katherine. Commander Katherine, National Adjutant Maria and Assistant Judy, national officers, and delegates to the Auxiliary Convention: Many years ago, I began what I didn't realize was going to turn into a tradition. I was so moved by the work that the Auxiliary had done at the memorial service—and for those of you who have heard this story before, you can go to sleep, and the rest can listen [laughter]—but I was so moved by what the Auxiliary did that I wanted to come over and give my personal thanks.

I said, how can I go wrong on this? I'm one year as a national chaplain, and then that's it. I believe this is the ninth time I've appeared before the Auxiliary. I knew yesterday that this was a holy place, and now I'm sure it is. I believe by your presence you add to the luster of this room, and I don't say that lightly.

I have a great many feelings for the Auxiliary, and I am only too happy to come over and say "Hello" to you. I have an advantage; I have said this before—again, those of you who have heard this story can go to sleep, and before I'm through, Katherine, I'll have your whole assembly asleep. [Laughter.]

But I'm a very fortunate man. I am a man who has a past, and it involves many of the ladies in this room. [Laughter.] But it's a past I can talk about with great pride. I have been over different parts of the country with some of you. We have been to Anglefire. We have been—some of you have come to visit the VA Medical Center in Boston. I have seen many of you at other conventions, and I'm always struck by the work that the Auxiliary does.

The thought came to me, as I was thinking, that I really should say something different this year, and I thought—a lot of people think of the Auxiliary as the women who waited behind in this country while the men went off to war and were seriously disabled. But I think that doesn't give the total story of life.

We talk about PTSD, and we think in terms of Vietnam veterans and what they suffered in Vietnam, but PTSD was not restricted to Vietnam and it's not restricted to men. It also engulfs women, and not only the nurses who may never have heard a shot fired in anger, but they were certainly there to care for the wounded as they came back.

But I think it also involves the woman who stayed at home to keep the family together, and some of us went through the experience of having a child born while the husband was thousands of miles away. Now, men don't have a total understanding of this. I have a little bit. I was married almost 35 years. My wife taught me a lot, and the kids picked up from there and taught me more, whether I wanted to learn or not. [Laughter.]

But one of the things that was really brought home to me was the importance to the woman, especially when that first child is born, to have a husband close by. And I wasn't able to be there.

And so when we talk about the scars of war, I think that we are negligent if we don't include the scars that were borne by those who may have never heard a shot fired in anger, who may have been thousands of miles from the scene of battle, but still had to carry on with a load that might have crushed others, but they carried on willingly, and many times having to have a smile on their face, and for the benefit of others could never even say a word of what benefit was going on deep inside. There was no one to share with. There were nights of loneliness.

I am guessing at this, but I bet I'm coming in pretty close. There was no one to share that burden with because the other person was far, far away.

And when you got the telegram that says, "The War Department regrets to inform you," it was difficult to read even further. That's part of the scars of war, and many of you had to bear that, and you have gone unsung in this, and I want to proclaim publicly that at least one member of the DAV—I am one among many, I know, but I'm one who's ready to say I know something of what you went through.

And anyone who thinks that war ends at a certain time, that because they have signed a piece of paper, that that ended it, is very much in error, for those of us who bear the scars of battle from personal experience, we know the war doesn't end. And those of you who have marched beside us, who have supported us, who have been there when we needed somebody, a listening ear, a gentle hand, whatever, you also know that the war doesn't end.

And then life itself brings its scars. I feel I'm very fortunate to have had an association with the DAV and its Auxiliary. I think that one of the dangers that we face, I see it today, the Vietnam veteran goes off his way, the Korean veteran goes off his way, the World War II veteran goes off his way. That's division. There are people in this country that would welcome that, because it makes the disabled veteran easier to handle, so you can push him into obscurity.

But if we allow the DAV and the Auxiliary to become fragmented so that we are not really part of the same time, we will once again fragment ourselves and be easier to handle. Together we can accomplish much.

I think that one of the good parts of the memorial service is it shows to everybody that is there, an area that the DAV and its Auxiliary work together hand in hand, each one making their contribution as they are able to. But that's only one area.

We take it back into the family life, into the community, into the neighborhood, across the nation, and if we don't work together, then we won't work at all. We're part of the same team. We have the same goals.

And as I say, those scars that life continues to hand us, if we didn't learn anything from this war, we did learn one thing, and that was we had to support one another. So as those scars of life continue to reach out to us, let us continue to support one another.

God bless you all. Thank you for your patience, and thank you for letting me share with you. [Applause.]

Commander PEARSON. Thank you for that very special message, and it was a beautiful memorial service. [Applause.]

Now, at this time, we'll have the National 2nd Junior Vice-Commander and Legislative Chairman Claudia Roy for her report.

2nd Jr. Vice-Commander CLAUDIA ROY. Wow! That's a hard act to follow. I've had the honor and the pleasure of knowing Rev. Bergstrom for several years. Prior to the divisions of the districts, the Department of Massachusetts and the Department of Vermont were in the same district, so our association goes back a little while. He's a very special person, and I was very pleased when he made his announcement. He told me a little while ago, and I'm very happy for him.

National Commander Katherine, national officers, chairmen, Executive Committeewomen, past national commanders, delegates, members and guests: For the past year, it has been my honor to serve as National Legislative chairman. I thank Commander Katherine for the appointment and for the privilege to serve in this chairmanship.

There are two ways to face change. One is negative, seeing change as a threat; the other is positive, viewing change as an opportunity. This past year, the Auxiliary put into effect a new procedure for the national report forms. For some departments, it was a positive, workable procedure; for others, it was not such a satisfactory process. I hope the years to follow will show steady acceptance and productivity.

I base my statistics on 1,028 reports. I extended the acceptance date for reports as long as possible. Please keep in mind that your national chairmen have to submit their report to National Headquarters by June 14th. Only 300 units reported having a Joint Legislative Seminar with the chapter. At 5,638 unit meetings veterans legislation was discussed.

For all facts and figures, please read the Legislative year-end report, which all units will be receiving through National Headquarters. Now, my personal report as national second junior vice-commander. In September, the DAV Department of Vermont hosted POW-MIA recognition ceremonies at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in White River Junction. I was proud to be in attendance and working as a volunteer. The weather was wet and cold, but the fellowship warm. All Vermont ex-POWs and their families were invited to attend, and a cook-in and program were enjoyed.

Also in September, the department sponsored a staff appreciation day at the medical center, and as a representative again, I worked on this project. The volunteers prepared the food, and we served staff, patients and visitors, over 700, and for this day the weather was perfect, and we all had a good time.

In October at the national fall conference, I presented the Legislative Program. I spent time at the library doing research on the government, national, state and local. I enjoyed compiling the facts for this program and sharing them with the members who were present.

In November, Brattleboro, Vermont Chapter and Unit 15, which I am a member of, hosted District Number 3 fall conference. The members were very honored to have Auxiliary National 3rd Junior Vice-Commander Myrtice Vinson as representative.

I had the pleasure of meeting Myrtice at the airport, and wouldn't you know it, she comes to where I belong, no luggage. Well, after all the information on the missing suitcase was given and a promise was extracted from the people at the airport to deliver the luggage to the motel, Myrtice turned to me and said, "You're probably an old pro at this." I very reluctantly said, "I've never had my luggage lost."

The luggage was delivered later, and District 3 enjoyed a very good conference. But I had made a big mistake. I had said my luggage had never been lost. Keep this in mind.

In February I was very pleased to be able to be present for National Commander Gene Murphy's presentation before the Joint Veterans Affairs Committee. Also I enjoyed having a chance to attend some of the Commanders and Adjutants Association meeting and visiting with some of the other Auxiliary national officers who were present.

During National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week, I had the very distinct honor of serving as hostess for open house at our VA Medical Center in White River.

Testimonials are always exciting and fun, and a very special evening honoring a very special lady, Auxiliary National Commander Katherine Pearson, was celebrated in March, and I was very honored to be a part of this special evening honoring this special lady.

I was also very honored in that same month when the Department of Vermont hosted a dinner dance in my honor, and if Katherine enjoyed her evening as much as what I observed that she did, then she knows how much I enjoyed my very special evening.

In May, the Department of Vermont was very honored to have as national representative at their department convention, Past National Adjutant L. Kit Seal Feighner. It is nice to know this lady who worked so hard for so many years is still participating in the activities of this organization. She and her husband Jack spent a couple of days with us in the Department of Vermont, and I'd like to tell them that they're welcome to come back and see us any time.

I also served as VAVS representative and chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and gave these two reports.

My first convention assignment was in Sumter, South Carolina. I was greeted at the airport by Department Adjutant Virginia Welch and enjoyed my visit with her on the drive to the hotel. Southern hospitality has a reputation, and the members of South Carolina upheld this tradition.

Department Commander Patricia Daxton was hard working and fun loving. It was also nice to see District Number 9 National Executive Committeewoman Alice Poteat. I was very honored to install the officers for 1988–89, and Mary Lee Barnett as the department commander.

On Memorial Day, again, the Department of Vermont and the volunteers and the VAVS representatives hosted a special event at our medical center. We had our Second Annual Olympics. It was again a very cold day, kind of rainy, but we had a lot of events for these fellows to enjoy, and we all enjoyed a wonderful cookout.

For me, June started off in Kansas City, Kansas. Having met and spent time with some of these members at prior functions, I was very comfortable and very much at home right from the start. These meetings were very smoothly conducted by Commander Maxine Horton, assisted by Adjutant Elaine Reagan.

It was nice to see District Number 15 National Executive Committeewoman Marcille Thomas again; also, Past National Commander Maurine Pederson and Alternate National Executive Committeewoman Virginia Alford, and they had dropped over from Missouri to say hi.

On to Houston, Texas. This was like attending a mini-national convention. Department Commander Charlene Nolan and Adjutant Dovey Hawkins had things well in hand, as did Convention Chairman Nancy Laurence, who we know, of course, as the National VAVS representative. Now, I'm still trying to figure out how

Dovey did such an excellent job being department adjutant and now she's here doing such a good job as the National Convention chairman. My hat's off to her.

It was nice to see District Number 20 National Executive Committeewoman Betty Burgman and Alternate Katie Critz. It was a pleasure also to see Past National Commander Catherine Early again and know that she is still a hard-working, participating member of this organization.

I managed a brief outing with Past National Commander Betty Hall. She wanted to show me at least the construction of the new Veterans Administration Hospital in Houston. Thank you very much, Betty.

Next stop, Hagerstown, Maryland. Oh, boy! If things could go wrong, they did on this trip. I left Hartford, Connecticut and changed planes in Baltimore, taking a 12-passenger shuttle on to Hagerstown. Well, I was so excited to be greeted at the airport by Department Commander Gretchen Messer, her mother and Department Adjutant Alice Cox, it took me a few minutes to realize. You got it; no luggage. [Laughter.] After extracting a promise to have it delivered as soon as it arrived, we continued on to the hotel.

Well, there was a pool party that evening, and I had been invited to participate and dress in an old-fashioned bathing suit. I was more concerned with the fact that I didn't have the bathing suit than with the fact that I couldn't change my dress for the memorial service. Problems over? Not yet.

Convention Chairman Dot Denise put a lot of planning into this convention: The pool party, decorated hat contest and an apron swap. Yes, there was time for business. Past National Commander Marjorie Maguire is an active member and presented a very interesting program at the Forget-me-Not Luncheon.

Now, I was scheduled to leave at 11:10 a.m., again on the little 12-passenger shuttle, back to Baltimore, with 35 minutes connecting time. Well, between leaving late and sitting on the runway waiting for a bus to transport us to the terminal, all but seven minutes of the 35 were used up. I located the gate number on the monitor for my flight, and I ran arriving at the very last possible minute, only to board the plane and find that there was a man, and not a small man in my seat. [Laughter.] I did get another seat. I did get home safely.

I can look back at these events now and laugh, but Myrtice, never again can I say my luggage has never been lost.

Commander Katherine, I have been proud and honored to serve in office with you and the other national officers. My very best wishes to each of you for your future endeavors.

To all the members, for the hospitality that has been extended to me at all the functions of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I thank you for the little momentoes, the pictures that you just stick in an envelope and mail to me, the little notes that you stick in when you're sending me reports. It's so nice to open it and find something special.

To Maria and Judy and the staff at National Headquarters, my sincere thanks for always being available to answer questions and offer assistance I sincerely appreciate it.

To all the members of the Disabled American Veterans, my thanks for helping to make this year one of my very happiest ever. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander **Pearson**. Thank you, Claudia, and we're very proud of you, the way you represent the national organization. And it was great to see you out at the legislative presentation on the Hill in Washington, D. C., and along with the other officers. I think it's very important that our Legislative chairmen have the opportunity to see our Legislative Program in progress.

We'll now have our First Junior Vice Commander, Membership Chairman Shelia Allred.

1st Jr. Vice-Commander **Shelia C. Allred**. Good morning, y'all. National Commander Katherine, national officers, National Executive Committeewomen, delegates and guests: It was indeed an honor to be elected your national first junior vice-commander during the year of 1987 at the national convention in Atlanta.

Along with this office came the privilege of the appointment of the National Membership chairman. And what an exciting membership year it has been, or, to say it bluntly, hooray, hooray! History has been made! [Applause.]

I'm delighted, I'm excited. We have total units in the United States of 1,880. Our life members is 51,759. Junior members is 11,078. Annual members, 99,896. Giving us a membership total of 162,733 strong. [Applause.]

Do you realize we have exceeded our quota by 33,527 members? Each department not only me but they surpassed their quota. Congratulations, DAV Auxiliary! [Applause.]

A great deal of thought, time and hard teamwork went into the success of our membership program this year. The insight of National Commander, Katherine Pearson, and our National Adjutant, Maria Tedrow, to venture something new for the Auxiliary really paid off. National Commander Katherine's personal invitation to join our Auxiliary was sent out by Adjutant Maria Tedrow and Auxiliary national staff. This was sent to wives of all life members of the DAV that did not belong to the Auxiliary. As you can see the response was fantastic.

Units and departments nationwide sponsored membership drives with their own incentives. The DAV and the Auxiliary joined together with a membership incentive program offering gifts for points. Pins were mailed for 5, 10 and 21 new, members. Quota members were honored once again.

As National Membership chairman, I've sent out nine bulletins during the year. One of these asked for membership drive suggestions from the units and from the departments. I had a good response to this, and my thanks go to all the units, the individuals and the departments that replied. These suggestions went out in the next bulletin.

Personal contact still remains the most effective method for obtaining and keeping your members.

No membership report was used by National this year. All membership awards will be based on computer printouts and verified by a Convention Membership Committee.

It's been a red letter year for our Auxiliary. I congratulate our Commander Katherine and Adjutant Maria, and I want you to pat yourself on the back for the job that you've done. It's well done.

It's been a privilege to serve you as Membership chairman and your national first junior vice-commander.

Now it's my honor for me to share with you my activities and travels as your national first junior vice. After returning home from national convention, I gave a School of Instructions on the department level for the North Carolina Department officers, district commanders, department chairmen and past department commanders at our department headquarters in Raleigh.

October the 8th, 9th and 10th, I assisted with decorations and activities for the National POW Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. Our own NEC Alice Poteat and her husband, Charles Poteat, were co-chairmen for this national convention.

In October, I was also honored by my chapter and Auxiliary Unit 27 in Concord at their pig-picking.

I attended the National Conference in Cincinnati and explained the membership program and incentives for the year. This program ended with the theme, "You've Come a Long Way, Baby," depicting the accomplishments of women through the years. I had 300 booklets given out that had a membership application enclosed with a diagram of the correct way to fill it out.

November the 5th, 6th and 7th, I was off to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee for District 8's meeting, presided over very capably by Bernice Eunice. You know, it was great visiting with this district, especially in Tennessee, because I just love to hear them talk. [Laughter.]

Well, it was hurrying home from Tennessee with one day to repack for Birmingham, Alabama, and one of the most outstanding, prestigious and well-organized Veterans Day parades I have ever witnessed. A reception, banquet and luncheon were also planned with guests ranging from an ambassador, generals, admirals and commanders. Commander Gene Murphy was there, and his remark was, "I've never seen so much brass together without being chewed out before." [Laughter.]

Caroline Weekly did an outstanding job in coordinating the DAV and Auxiliary portions of the activities. It was great sharing all this with Alabama Commander Mary Davis and our NEC Vernice Eunice.

January, I was a representative for the 9th District meeting in Myrtle Beach. NEC Alice Poteat had a good turnout of ladies, conducted a very good meeting. This was hosted by the Department of South Carolina, and everything was very informative and well put together.

In February, it was time again for the DAV Commanders and Adjutants Conference in Washington, D. C. I attended the opening session and reception. On Monday, Immediate Past Department Commander Jane Troutman, myself and the delegation from North Carolina made the rounds on Capitol Hill visiting our senators, congressmen and just anyone else connected with the staff that would listen to us about veterans and how we felt.

On Tuesday, we attended the DAV National Commander's presentation and statements before the Joint House of Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

In March, I was honored by the Department of North Carolina at their spring conference. Commander Josephine McCleny did a great job of presiding over the Executive Committee meeting and the conference session.

In March I also attended National Commander Katherine's testimonial dinner. This was a beautiful way to honor Katherine for her outstanding leadership and dedication.

I received an invitation from the administrator of the VA, Thomas Turnage, to attend a new addition dedication to the Fayetteville VA Medical Center, which I attended on April the 4th.

In May, convention assignments began. I was off to Las Vegas, Nevada. It was indeed a pleasure being with Commander Olga Moon, Barbara Duke, and NEC Nancy Lee. And I want to thank the Department of Nevada for sending me a videotape made at the banquet.

The next week, I was on my way to Augusta, Maine. Commander Blanche Wilder not only conducted the meetings, but prepared and brought enough food to feed everyone on Friday night. There are some very lovely and dedicated ladies in Maine, and it was a pleasure to install their new officers. It was also a pleasure visiting with NEC Alma Tucci during that time.

Well, here I was on the airplane, on my way home, at an altitude of 35,000 feet. You know, I don't remember anyone ever telling me not to fly if you had a sinus infection. But I know it now. It all happened so fast: Pain, a crackle, a loud pop, and then blood gushing from my left ear. The flight attendant immediately was notified, and they took the plane down to 24,000 feet to relieve the pressure and called a Code Yellow into the Philadelphia Airport.

On landing, I was met at the gate by a doctor, two paramedics and two security guards, and taken to the medical facility at the airport. I was grounded and told I could not continue my flight because I had a ruptured eardrum and a laceration in my ear canal. Thank God for Amtrak, even though it took me nine hours to get home.

I want to thank all the ladies of Maine for the flowers and get-well cards, and also the NSOs in Maine who were very concerned.

Due to the fact that my ear had not healed enough to fly, I had to cancel my scheduled trip to Idaho, and I really hated to do that. I was looking forward to that so much. But maybe there will be another time.

North Carolina's convention was next. It was great seeing Past National Commander Sally Wilton, although we got lost trying to get Sally back to the airport, and it's in the town that I live in, too. [Laughter.]

Sally was North Carolina's national representative, and everyone really enjoyed Sally being with us. She is certainly one of North Carolina's favorite people.

My next assignments were in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The doctor said, "You can fly, but the longer you wait, the better off you're going to be." This is when I found out again what it means to have friends in the DAV and have them reach out to help you.

These friends were DAV Chaplain Virgil Whitehurst and his lovely wife, Dot Whitehurst, who is North Carolina's Auxiliary Department senior vice-commander. These two beautiful people volunteered to drive me to New Jersey and Pennsylvania's conventions in their motor home. This shows you God looks after fools, little children, and our Auxiliary national officers. [Laughter.]

New Jersey was exactly what I needed at that time, friendly, caring DAV and Auxiliary members. Department Commander Pat Zappley had a good year and a very good convention. The business was accomplished and the other activities were very relaxing. We even had a sing-along in my room by the pool.

My last assignment was the Department of Pennsylvania, held in Trevose. What a royal way to end my travels for the year. Department Commander Jimi Hayes did a superb job of presiding over the meeting. NEC Virginia Hartman gave an informative School of Instruction. It was great seeing National Junior Activities Chairman Barbara Maldet. Barbara wears many hats in her department and does an excellent job with all of them.

To all the states I visited: Thank you for all the beautiful memories and courtesies that you showed me. I've witnessed all your hard work, concern and dedication shown in your department conventions, and I was proud to be your representative.

I attended my unit meetings, except when I was called to travel, served as my unit adjutant and my department as department judge advocate, and also advisor to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Commander Katherine, it's been a pleasure serving with you. I want to thank Judy and the national staff for all of their assistance. National Adjutant Maria Tedrow, I want to personally thank you for all your help, advice, guidance and especially concern and caring that you showed me during my accident.

Katherine and Maria, you two ladies are very brave ladies. You believed in our purpose enough to know and realize that there are many women that would join our ranks if they knew what we do and that we care. You believed enough to take a chance, a chance that paid off and made the most successful membership drive in the history of our organization. That shows true leadership.

To you, the members of this great organization, thank you for your confidence and trust in giving me an opportunity to serve you as your national first junior vice-commander. [Applause.]

Commander PEARSON. Thank you, Shelia. It's my pleasure to have you on the line of officers serving with me, and the membership did come a long way, baby, and I thank you for that.

At this time, would the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort Past National Commander Catherine Early to the podium. [Applause.]

Catherine, we have some very special people that we would like to have brought up now. So would the national sergeant-at-arms please escort Mary Early Dishner, Ann Dishner Sims. Well, Mary Early Dishner is the daughter of Catherine Early, and Ann Dishner Sims is a granddaughter. And then Molly Sims and Sara Sims are great-granddaughters. So would you please escort these girls. We are so glad to have them here.

This is something very, very special, four generations at this meeting. [Rising applause.]

Mary, would you like to have a few words here at this particular time?

Ms. **Mary Early Dishner**. Well, of course, we are very pleased to be here, and very proud of our mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. And I would also like to recognize at this time my mother-in-law who is out in the audience, and I would appreciate your standing. This is a family of DAV. [Applause.] Frances Dishner is my mother-in-law. She's a past national officer, a chaplain, and so my husband and I grew up with all of you folks.

And thank you very much, and have a good convention. [Applause.]

Commander **Pearson**. Catherine, would you like to say a few words?

Past National Commander **Catherine Early**. Yes, please. This certainly takes me back many years, and probably some in the audience remember my family as they grew up. Our daughter came with us to all conventions. Until she was 16 years old, she attended every national convention. When she became 16, my parents were living near enough, and long-time friends to look after her, and she could stay at home.

Do you know how we were greeted when we got home? "Well, I didn't know that I had sense enough to stay home by myself until I was 16 years old."

And I'm indeed grateful for my family. Each of whom have been members of the Auxiliary since the day of birth. The only regret that I have is that Mary's father, who many of you remember, John Early, is gone. The other member of my very dear family, my son-in-law, is also deceased. I did not have a son. My son was John Dishner.

So I appreciate you all being my family. You are my second family, the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. [Applause.]

Commander **Pearson**. Thank you, Catherine. Thank you for giving us the very special privilege of meeting your family. You certainly truly are a Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary family. Thank you so very much. [Applause.]

And now, ladies, we will have the National Senior Vice-Commander. She is in charge of the Mae Holmes Program. I'll give you Rose Schilpp. [Applause.]

Senior Vice-Commander **Rose Marie Schilpp**. Thank you. Hi, y'all. You're in Texas. Don't worry about a thing. Everything's big in Texas. Eat all that food, don't worry about the calories, sit back and relax. Think big, talk big, and do big. [Laughter.]

National Commander Katherine, national officers, national committeewomen, national chairmen, past national commanders, delegates, members and guests: Gee! Seems like such a short time ago I was elected as your national senior slippery thing and it waits for no one. You either use it or lose it. You can't retrieve it.

I have spent time with many of you this year, and I must say I have enjoyed every minute of it. It has been a very exciting year for me, as well as a very rewarding year. What a tremendous membership growth we have had this year.

As I have traveled across this vast land of ours this year, it has been a pleasure meeting many of you and sharing in the accomplishments of the members in your respective states.

My assignments as national representative are the following: I was in Columbus, Ohio on October the 10th and 11th for their department fall conference. Upon my arrival at the hotel, I received none less than the real red carpet treatment. And a fine conference was held with the leadership of Commander Winifred Helton. And it was a pleasure being with Past National Commander Mary Beth Schulze and our National Chaplain Judy Uetterling.

On April the 15th through the 17th, I attended the 15th District meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska. District 15 includes Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas. Now, if you paid attention to what I say, you know what I am talking about. We like to think our district is the swankiest in the country. Now, do you know how I called the states out? Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas. The first letter of each state spells MINK. [Laughter.]

Marcille Thomas, our National Executive Committeewoman, had a well planned meeting, and there was a lot of participation from those in attendance.

May 5th through the 7th, I was in Tucson, Arizona for their department convention, which was well attended, and again, the warmth and friendship was in abundance. Under the leadership of Commander Mary Ann Marcus, a good convention was held, with none other than a couple of roll call votes when it came to election time. Many of you kind of get excited, and think, "Oh, no! A roll call." That's good. Interest and participation. That's what we need.

And it was a pleasure being with Past National Commander Sally Wilton at their convention.

June the 2nd through the 5th, I was in Macon, Georgia for their department convention.

Again, it was a pleasure being with Past National Commander Helen Davis, Myrtice Vinson, and NEC Alice Poteat. Commander Wanda Trailer did a fine job conducting the convention, and her theme was, "Because We Care," emphasizing the importance of working together in our auxiliaries and chapters.

I was also delighted to meet Jane Johnson, the recipient of the George H. Seal Award this year, a lovely lady and a dedicated volunteer who has given many many hours of dedicated service working with our veterans and their families. Again, Jane, we salute you.

On June 10th through the 12th, I was in Jefferson City, Missouri for our department convention. Now, this was kind of a treat to go this year, as I had not been able to attend for the past two years, due to other assignments. Being from the Show-Me state, they showed me they really had not forgotten me. Had a good attendance, and Commander Pauline Connolly conducted a good convention, and I was honored to install the newly elected officers. And there I was pleased to have good attendance, Past National Commander Dorothy Van Hoy and Past National Commander Maurine Pederson.

I was scheduled to attend Kentucky's Department Convention in Louisville on June 16th through the 19th. However, at the last minute, due to circumstances beyond my control, I was unable to attend. I was looking forward to their convention, as well as to Churchill Downs. But I'll have you know this old gray mare didn't even get to the starting gate.

I'm sorry for any inconvenience that this may have caused you at the last minute, but I'm sure you enjoyed having Past National Commander Eva Rodgers with you. Again, thanks to all of you for the lovely platter. It was very thoughtful of you.

June the 21st through the 26th, I attended Florida's department convention in Tampa, large convention, mini-convention. But after all, it should be. They are our largest unit. At the time I was there, they needed 29 members to make their 14,000. On the membership printout as of June 30th, I see they exceeded their 14,000 by 58 members. Congratulations, Florida. [Applause.]

Commander Stevens did a fine job conducting the convention. They don't waste any time there. If you have a lull, their musician starts playing and you start singing. We had a little lull, and we had a sing-along. Before we knew it, we had people cavorting around in the meeting room. But a good time was had by all, and everyone enjoyed it.

Commander Irene's theme this year was "We'll be Great in '88." Not only were they greatest in membership, according to all my travels, they have set a record for roll calls. Five in all. Now, that shows you the interest of participation. Yes, it was lengthy, but they all survived it.

In all the states I have visited as national representative, no matter how large or small, there was something special at every convention I attended. Many hours of volunteer service at our VA Medical Centers were shared; Americanism programs; commander of the year; woman of the year; juniors serving as pages; community service work, and many other endeavors and volunteer service.

You, the members, made all of this possible, and again, I thank you for sharing this with me. Your hospitality was outstanding, but most of all thanks for your love and friendship.

In October, I attended our national fall conference in Cincinnati. Ohio. Thank you, Katherine, for a fine job. I have heard many times what a great conference it was. A special thanks to our National Adjutant Maria and her staff. We appreciated all your many hours of extra work in preparing for the convention. The Friday night reception was great, and the entertainment was outstanding.

And a special thanks to our national chairmen for their well-presented programs, which were very informative.

On April the 25th, I attended the National Finance Committee meeting held at National Headquarters, and also attended the National Education Loan Fund meeting also hold at National Headquarters on May the 26th. Both of these meetings were very interesting and informative, and many hours were spent by the members of these two committees before any decisions were made.

On November the 14th, I attended the annual luncheon of the Hospitalized Veterans Writing Project at the Carriage Club in Kansas City. It was a real pleasure being there in attendance when General Thomas K. Turnage, who is Administrator of Veterans Affairs presented the Veterans Administration Award to the Hospitalized Veterans Writing Project in recognition of their efforts to encourage hospitalized veterans with their writing skills, and to assist them in getting their writings published in Veterans Voices, which is the only publication in the world devoted only to the writings of hospitalized veterans.

The award, which was accepted by Margaret Sally Keath, founder of Veterans Voices, is the highest honor given by the Veterans Administration. Our organization does sponsor this program through our VAVS, Veterans Administration Voluntary Service program, and the Disabled American Veterans and Auxiliary were the very first veterans organization to sponsor this program officially. We can be proud to sponsor a program such as this.

Our unit was most happy to have National Commander Katherine and her husband, Lyle, as our guests on February the 18th and 19th. They were taken on a tour of the Greater Kansas City Area, toured the Liberty Memorial Mall, which was built in honor of World War II veterans, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Truman Library, and the Kansas City VA Medical Center. We certainly enjoyed having them and hope they will drop in to see us again sometime.

I am active in my unit. I have attended all unit meetings, other than when I was traveling. I have served as Executive Board member and nursing home bingo chairman this year. And I will say we don't just go for bingo. I do play the piano. I'm not a professional. We go half an hour early, and we have a sing-along. I will tell you this: No matter how bad they feel or how disabled they are, they get a wiggle somewhere, they really do enjoy it.

That's so great about our organization? Individuality. Every member and every unit are unique in their own way. No matter who we are or where we are, we all have the same concerns. It takes one and all to continue to be successful. You know, life is kind of like a taxi. The meter keeps running, whether you are getting somewhere or just standing still. So let's get all the mileage we can.

Let us all render that much needed service to our veterans and their families with love and harmony.

National Adjutant Maria, Assistant Adjutant Judy, I want to thank you and your staff for all your help, and it's been great to have you there. And when you write or call, they get on the ball, you get an answer. It might not always be what you want to hear, but they'll tell you the right thing.

Commander Katherine, it has been an honor and a privilege serving with you this year and all the other national chairmen. You have had an outstanding year, and I congratulate you for a job well done.

To all of you, my thanks to you for allowing me to serve as your national senior vice-commander this year. It is something I shall never forget. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander PEARSON. National Senior Vice Rose, will you please take the podium as I present my report?

[Whereupon, Senior Vice-Commander Schilpp assumed the chair.]

Senior Vice-Commander SCHILPP. Now we'll hear our national commander's report from Katherine Pearson.

Commander PEARSON. It's a long way down here, and I wrote my speech on the way down, and I started at the time we took off, and I finished it just as we drove into the hotel. So sit back and relax.

First of all, I want to thank you, Rose. That was a very nice, interesting report, and I know your dedication to the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary and to the Disabled American Veterans themselves. I've seen you in action, and it's great. Great to have you.

Ladies of the Disabled American Veterans Women's Auxiliary: Eleven months ago in Atlanta, Georgia, the delegates at the national convention of the Disabled American Veterans Women's Auxiliary entrusted their confidence in me and afforded me the opportunity to serve as your national commander. Many, many thanks to you.

And my gratitude to those delegates for having elected such dedicated national officers to serve as partners in service. They have proven to be ever so helpful in fulfilling the obligation as officers, and in emphasizing the national programs, they represented the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary very well, and I am so very proud of them.

Also the national chairmen who were approved by the Executive Board have proven their expertise in promoting the national programs that they were charged with.

It is true that I was disappointed in the close of last year's convention when the delegates had not made provisions or mandated a program that specializes in service and benefits for the veteran's dependent. That, of course, includes our own membership. I must say I was surprised the committee that could have made this addition of this program was not aware of the pulse and the movement of the membership.

Yes, it was a disappointment; however, the members of the National Executive Board did approve an appointment of a veteran family service director, only to run into another disappointment. There wasn't funds allocated for new programs or research for which a national commander is entitled to make appointments.

Ladies, I have been listening to the heartbeat of America. We are living in an ever-changing society regarding how we exist and function, how the methods that we operate by and the attitudes of today's way of life. And so we need to look at new programs that will justify our purpose for today, as well as building for the future of our Auxiliary. We are here at this convention to accomplish just that.

Our Auxiliary members and eligible members today are looking at not only what we can do for the veterans, but what we should be doing to fulfill the needs of the veteran's dependents, just like you and I. We're here to mandate new programs, update, enhance and build on the foundation of our existing programs. Now is the time; tomorrow may be too late.

We are here to spend those three or four hours in committee to make plans for the years ahead and beyond. Then we can go back to our units that the convention mandates a program that is nationwide and to have a continuity in the Auxiliary practice and in the service.

My travels as the national commander have taken me from the North Star state with many stops around this great nation here to the Lone Star state. This has been 11 months of experience that I shall always treasure. Everywhere I've traveled has been interesting, exciting and a rewarding adventure.

Partners in service were always here, willing to share their ideas, their know-how, their enthusiasm for change to make our service in the Disabled American Veterans Women's Auxiliary programs for a better tomorrow for veterans and their families. The hospitality was endless, it was beautiful, and greatly appreciated.

My stops along the trail as national commander to this final stop here in the Big D have opened many doors to me and given opportunities to do many different, intriguing activities. There were places such as the dedication of a new VA Medical Center, tours of several VA Medical Centers, outpatient clinics, and seeing our Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary volunteers at work.

So at this time, I take this opportunity to congratulate Willie Jane Johnson, the DAVA/VAVS volunteer recipient of the George Seal Memorial Award. Let's give her a big hand. [Applause.] Thank you.

There were other types of health care centers that I toured. A Hansen Disease Center at Carrville is one of them. And I accompanied the national hospital chairman, Shirley Larson. We were surprised to see this institution and how few veterans were there. Yes, times have changed.

I've enjoyed my visit to the DAVA and DAV Department Headquarters, even having the privilege of having my picture on the wall with those other national commanders who have served. This was in Macon, Georgia. Although my picture wasn't there at the time, I hurried and went home and got one made. three times I went to that photographer. He says, "Lady, I can't do anything for you. You're going to have to take the first one that you had." [Laughter.] So I sent it. I enjoyed my visit to the DAVA and the DAV Department Headquarters. There were VIP tours in special places that I couldn't have been able to tour as Katherine, but the national commander, yes. See, there are many perks for being a national commander.

I've enjoyed the visits to historical sites, and at Fort McHenry. Maryland, I was presented with the flag that was flown over that fort that day, and I prize it greatly.

In my travels, I've seen the opportunity to present the Minnesota flag to be included on their avenues of state flags. One was at the POW Museum at Andersonville, Georgia.

There were breakfasts, teas, banquets and luncheons that were special, and food and food and more good food, something I'll carry around with me for a long time. [Laughter.] But then, the memory of all those wonderful people that were at those occasions will also be a memory of mine for a long, long time.

I went to spring break at Daytona Beach, and Debbi, I know what you mean about the Speedway. It was very interesting, but you know something? It was very hard to tell the Speedway from the highways down there. We were traveling 80 miles an hour—and I'm not going to tell who was driving—but that wasn't on the Speedway; that was on the highways.

In my travels, I've had several opportunities to attend testimonials for National Commander Gene Murphy at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and I was privileged to have him at the one given for me in the Twin Cities of Minnesota. I shall always be indebted to all those who made it such a very special night for me.

There were many one-of-a-kind meetings to attend: The orientation session at the DAV National Headquarters in Washington, D. C., where National Adjutant Maria, Assistant National Adjutant Judy and I had the opportunity to present the Auxiliary goals of our program projects, and to enlighten the DAV of what is happening at the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary National Headquarters at Cold Spring, Kentucky.

We in turn were informed by the DAV national staff from both the Cold Spring, Kentucky and Washington, D. C. Headquarters of their programs and their goals, and what each one of the staff members had to offer for the DAV themselves, programs that we should be and are very much interested in helping them.

Another important event in Washington, D. C. to attend was the National DAV Commander, Gene Murphy's presentation in legislation, the mandates that they have given and made at the national convention last year. They presented these to the House and Senate Joint Veterans Affairs Committee. It was interesting, and I was delighted to see so many of our officers there, and especially our Legislative chairman. I think it's very helpful for her to know and see the action of the process that the DAV has to present these programs.

There were many meetings and conferences and conventions included in my travels; meetings with the Finance Committee, with Vernice Eunice as chairman. And her members of the committee were Lorraine Hanna, Fannie Proctor and Virginia Hartman.

I attended the Ed. Loan Committee. Director is Phyllis Greeney, and her committee members were Senior Vice Rose Schilpp, Kit Feighner and myself. Past National Commander Loneita Shoemaker could not be with us because of illness. And Loneita, we're very very hopeful that your illness wasn't too serious, but we sure missed you.

These meetings were held at the National Headquarters, and National Adjutant Maria and Assistant National Adjutant Judy were available to lend us their service and give us the information that's needed for those committees.

This year's conventions and 50th anniversary meetings and conferences along the journey were at Ohio, Maryland, Montana, Minnesota, Arizona, Michigan, Connecticut, California, New Mexico, New York, Massachusetts, North Dakota, Oregon, Georgia, Florida, Iowa, South Dakota, and the great State of Hawaii.

Met with a bachelor chapter, and he promised me 15 years ago if I'd be their convention chairman—and I said I wouldn't, because it didn't have an auxiliary. He says, "I promise you, we won't be able to start an auxiliary now. But sometime later if you ever get to be national commander"—and they thought that was a sure thing that they would never have an auxiliary, but I fooled them.

We laid the plans for a new auxiliary, and Shirley Larson installed them because I was some place else. She and all of the new auxiliaries that were formed this past year.

I participated in the Memorial Day services at the Punch Bowl in Hawaii. The members in Honolulu really gave me a royal Hawaiian treatment with a dinner cruise. And all the ladies are talking about working to get a department. Rose, I hope you can get that department. They're eager. They've got the members. All they have to do is divide them up into three units, and you'll have it.

The name that you might contact, Liz Jones would like to meet with us to get some more information how they should go about doing it.

At that Punch Bowl—I'd like to insert something that I felt very deeply with. I wanted to go on a special day when they pay tribute to those who lost their lives, who paid the full price to serve the United States of America in the Pacific Theater. I was privileged as the National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, and the only veterans organization that was privileged to sit on the mayor's platform for that beautiful memorial service.

And one of the things that made it so beautiful was that every student had an opportunity to make a lei and they came out and placed that lei so that every grave would have flowers and a flag on their grave. It was a beautiful sight. It was very impressive how they laid the lei. They just didn't toss it. They knelt, put the lei down.

And I thought, this is the youth of America that we should be talking about, people that do know who it was that paid the price for our freedom. I shall always remember that Memorial Day.

At this time, I will touch a little on the National Conference. I thought this was such an important meeting. The chairman—your unique way of presenting the national programs was superb, Myrtice, giving us a new dimension through her research on Americanism. Shirley Larson, your interview really brought out the importance of volunteerism in our local health care centers.

Bonita Newell, the chairman of a program that has so many programs rolled into one—I believe we could call it the melting pot of programs—had tried to find the fine line to identify what belongs to Community Service and what goes into the other programs, and I'm still wondering how you did it. It was good.

Our VAVS representative, Nancy Laurence, and Deputy Lelia McGinnis just flew into the conference from the National VAVS Advisory Annual Meeting held in Florida. They brought us a fresh, new version for volunteers.

Our national senior vice, Rose, gave a briefing on the Mae Holmes Award. Phyllis Greeney and her helpers collected a lot of loot for the Ed. Loan. Claudia gave us a rundown about our legislative process. Margaret Hass made some beautiful framed citation certificates for the past national commanders, using the slogan of their year. It was such a nice way to remember their history.

Judy Uetterling, thank you for your spiritual guidance.

Lucille McCarthy, it is so greatly appreciated that you unexpectedly fulfilled the duties as national judge advocate. And I have given Lucille a slogan, "Have Bylaws book; will travel." [Laughter.] And I did call on her on several occasions. She is also serving on the Interim Committee of the Constitution and Bylaws, along with Coleen Bianchi and Annette Wilson as chairman.

Shelia, another smash hit, this time on Membership. The result speaks for itself. With the hard work of the girls at the National Headquarters, 162,733 members, with every department meeting quota. Shelia and girls, staff at National Headquarters, Maria, Judy, especially, thank you so very much for that membership.

And thanks to each and every one of you who contribute to our members. The Auxiliary cannot do it without the help of each other.

We do have some bachelor chapters. That's a start, girls, for next year. Think of it! Ten members at a time you could get, just by getting those bachelor chapters. And I think they're beginning to see the light.

You can start with the NSOs' wives. There are many of those that are not members, and we'd like to see them and invite them to join us. There are many eligibles out there, and so you do have an opportunity to go ahead next year, even bigger and greater than we did this year. Let's give it a bit of a go.

Now, for the star of that Conference, our National Adjutant, Maria Tedrow. That Friday night, that special Friday night was just great for those who attended. Every one of them have said they appreciated a night like that, and how about another one. And the entertainment at the banquet—they were both terrific. They were fantastic.

Judy and staff members at National Headquarters, thank you for your cooperation in making it happen. It really was super.

Ladies, will you join with me in giving these girls a standing ovation for their work at the national fall conference? [Rising applause.]

Thank you. And let's have another conference just like it.

And now, Maria. I've been telling you of my travels, and I do want you to know, I thought about you wherever I went. And Maria, here's proof. [Giving gift.] Maria has been such a great help, not only while I was traveling, but she was always there when I needed her, and I needed her a lot, her and her staff both.

Adjutant Tedrow. I would like to make one comment. We're running close. But, you know, one thing about Katherine, she always had a care kit for me. She knows I love sweets. So wherever we were together, she always had someone knock at my door in the evening with Twinkies and cookies and something, saying "Here's your care kit, your survivor's kit for the evening." [Laughter.]

Oh! Garfield in needlepoint. [Applause.] It says, "Maria's office. Genius at work." [Laughter.] Thank you.

Commander Pearson. Thank you. All the mistakes on there, Maria, is when I went over bumps, you know, traveling, or the plane would make a dive on it, skip a couple of stitches. Please don't look at that, though.

It has been 11 months of playing a lot of bingo here or there. Lucky, I'm not, but they accepted my money anyway. There's a drawerful of chance tickets with no return on them, either. But, by the way, Myrtice, where's my Cadillac? [Laughter.]

Plaques, citations, gifts, gifts, beautiful gifts, and some I did not have an address to send them "thank you" to. But each and every one is so greatly appreciated. I'll thank you now.

You have heard of queen of a day, but 11 months of special perks? Every perk that I had from my family will be no more. Soon the perks are going to end. Lyle, carrying my bags, driving me to here and there, doing the housework as he promised that he would do last year, and whatever. Yes, all these extras will soon be mine to do again.

My life has been enriched through the association with those who fully realize the heroism of the disabled veterans. And at the close of this convention, I will leave the yesterdays and look forward to moving ahead with the willingness to change when change needs to be.

I want to thank each and every one of you for this very special privilege of being your National Commander, something I shall always treasure. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Senior Vice-Commander **SCHILPP**. Lovely report. She's had a great year, thanks to all of you. May I have a motion to accept the reports as presented? Use the mike, would you, please?

NEC 14th District **WILSON**. I make a motion we accept Commander Pearson's report.

Senior Vice-Commander **SCHILPP**. Do I have a second?

Ms. **MARY PATTERSON**. Mary Patterson, Unit 1, Indiana will second that motion.

Senior Vice-Commander **SCHILPP**. Motion has been made that we accept the reports and seconded. All in favor; all opposed. You wouldn't dare, would you?

[Whereupon, Commander Pearson resumed the chair.]

Commander **PEARSON**. Thank you.

And now I would like to call on another very special person, our immediate past national commander, Loneita Shoemaker, for remarks. [Applause.]

Immediate Past Commander **LONEITA SHOEMAKER**. Thank you, Commander Pearson. It is pleasure to be on the other side today, but, however, it has been an extension this year of my wonderful year of traveling, and I want to thank Commander Pearson and Maria for allowing me the privilege to attend the conventions that I did in Indiana and San Juan, Puerto Rico. It was wonderful.

The year has been great. And I congratulate you for an outstanding job. And to you, Maria and your staff, many thanks for your help throughout the year. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander **PEARSON**. Thank you so much, Loneita.

And now we'll have the historian report by Thelma Williamson, if you please.

Ms. **THELMA WILLIAMSON**. Thank you, Katherine. You know, history is dull at best, and it's just too bad I had to follow such a very, very nice talk by our national commander. I'll do the best I can, though.

Commander Pearson, national officers, past national commanders, members and guests: It's always great to come back to the State of Texas, and this time the hospitality is just as good as it's been in the past. It's nice to be here.

Today I'd like to talk to you about our national conventions, both past and present. As we all know, the national convention is the governing body of our organization. Our National Bylaws clearly state that a national convention shall be held annually at a time and place selected by the DAV. The purpose of it is to review the work of the past year, to take action on present problems, including amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws, and to elect officers for the coming year.

In compliance with the Bylaws, these conventions have been held every year with the exception of 1942, the summer after our country declared war on the Axis Powers. The following year, 1943, there was a sudden lifting of government restrictions by the Office of Defense Transportation, and our delegates gathered in New York City.

Our national conventions have been held in 39 cities, in 26 of our 50 states, and also in our nation's capital in Washington, D. C. Miami, Florida has been the site of more than any other municipality. We've met there eight times. On two occasions, the convention was held outside the Continental United States, and both times the delegates met in Honolulu, Hawaii.

But it's not the specific place or location that is of the greatest importance to our members. Regardless of the city, the convention gives us opportunity to get together with people who have the same interests, and men and women who suffered disabilities while serving in our Armed Forces during wartime.

It's the place where sometimes veterans meet people who saved their lives. It's the place where men and women sometimes find wartime friends they thought were dead. It's a place where people see buddies they first met in training camps, on ships, in aircraft squadrons, in foxholes, and, yes, in hospitals.

It's also the place where we pay our respects to those who gave their lives in defense of our country and our freedoms.

Preparations for these annual meetings begin months and even years in advance of our arrival there. The DAV selects the city and the date. The Auxiliary has no voice in their decision.

Beginning in 1938, 50 years ago, the DAV Bylaws stated that the place and date must be selected at least two years in advance, and at the present time they are scheduled for at least three and sometimes four or more into the future.

Now, in making the choice, the DAV Executive Committee must approve the selection of the hotel with adequate facilities for the severely handicapped, and one with places in the hotel and also in nearby areas for our dining.

For this convention in Dallas, our parent organization reserved 1300 sleeping rooms for some of the nights that we are here. A room large enough for at least 3,000 people must be available for our joint opening session, for the national commander' reception, and for the grand ball at the end of the convention.

In addition, large meeting rooms are needed for simultaneous business sessions of the DAV and Auxiliary. Space must be available for registration desks and for Headquarters offices and equipment. And don't forget the 21 rooms where the districts hold their meetings.

Furthermore, our organization must have a first-aid room, a public relations office, an NSO office, and several others.

So one can readily see that no small hotel can provide the space necessary for our national conventions. Of course, hotels providing these facilities are expensive, but we must have these available to us.

The city and the hotel managers welcome conventions, because they bring money into their areas, and they're good for public relations.

Prior to our conventions in the past, the local people were busy getting ready for the conventions. Many residents and business establishments made elaborate preparations. Homeowners sometimes decorated their porches with red, white and blue bunting and displayed large American flags from upstairs windows. Store managers placed signs in their windows to welcome the men and women to their city.

Before World War II, a highlight of many conventions was the parade through the streets. During the hours of the parades, businesses closed their doors to customers. Sometimes, even the work at the courthouses came to a standstill so that everyone could watch the parade, which often lasted for several hours.

The procession on the line of march was usually led by police on motorcycles, and they were followed by military bands and contingents of troops from nearby military units. Sometimes our national commanders marched with the troops. And they all saluted smartly as they passed the reviewing stand.

Our Auxiliary drill team's, wearing white uniforms with either red or blue trimming, marched along with precision and put on a good show for the spectators.

As flag bearers carried their national ensigns unfurling in the breeze, the men along the streets removed their hats and everyone stood at attention in respect for Old Glory.

On some occasions, little girls dressed in white joined hands and marched along to lead the blind veterans who walked behind them.

There were other servicemen, other than the disabled, who marched, too. But many of them had forgotten how to keep step with the music. Indeed, they often looked like people with two left feet, but they were enjoying the parade. In the Navy, we used to call people who couldn't keep in step with the music, we called them "motor morons."

The favorite songs of the spectators were "Mademoiselle from Armentieres" and "Hinky-Binky, Parley-Voo." Another popular one was, "How Are You Going to Keep Them Down on the Farm, After They've seen Paree?"

But not all the entertainment was provided by the parade itself. Along the streets, would-be comics put on sideshows for the spectators. Some—and these are disabled veterans—displayed baby alligators—guess where they came from—suspended on ribbons, and when placed on the ground, these critters crawled all over everything.

Other clowns, would-be that is, had white rats squirming around on their shoulders and gnawing at the lapels of their keepers.

As always happens, practical jokers lit firecrackers and tossed them near the heels of dignified looking ladies and watched the dames lose their composure when the firecrackers exploded. It was all in good fun.

At the conventions today, gone are the parades. I can't find any reference to them after World War II. But in their place, we have a dignified, sophisticated, indoor special event with stirring musical selections, usually rendered by a uniformed band.

It's always a solemn moment as banner bearers carrying the state pennants and large American flags march through the aisles of the audience. A deep silence sweeps over the room as our national colors are posted on or near the platform. It's really an inspiring moment as men and women with obvious physical disabilities smile when they salute the flag of their country. These veterans who were wounded in defense of America show they are proud of having served during wartime, even though their service years doom them to a lifetime of pain and suffering.

Although an invitation has always been sent to the President of the United States every year, I can find no evidence that one ever attended. The closest we ever came to having one was in 1974 when then Vice-President Gerald Ford addressed the delegates in New Orleans. Four days later, August the 5th, he took the oath of office of President of the United States after the resignation of then President Richard Nixon.

On one other occasion, a Vice-President addressed the delegates. In 1984, Vice-President George Bush spoke at the national convention in Washington, D. C.

Of special significance at the conventions is the memorial service, which has always been an important feature of the national convention. At this time, we pause to honor those who gave their lives in the cause of freedom.

In the early years, the DAV held its own memorial service during the joint opening session, while the Auxiliary held a separate one during Auxiliary meetings. In 1941, our parent organization invited the Auxiliary to be a part of a joint memorial tribute. However, the Auxiliary continued to hold a separate one, that's an additional one, for more than 20 years. Later, the joint memorial service was moved to Monday night during the convention.

But when the DAV and Auxiliary met in Honolulu in 1975, the memorial service was scheduled for Sunday morning prior to the opening session, and it remains there at the present time.

There was a special feature at a memorial service more than 50 years ago that's worthy of note. The local chapter and unit presented a living tableau of the official seal of the DAV. On the stage a nurse, who had served overseas during World War I, took the part of Columbia, and kneeling before her was a uniformed disabled veteran representing all of the Armed Services. In the foreground were 40 white crosses, one for each state in the union at that time.

During the memorial service at the first convention of the DAV in 1921, a wreath in the name of the DAV was placed at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, as it was then called, in Arlington National Cemetery. It was presented at the time they opened the convention. At the same time, attaches presented wreaths at similar monuments in Ottawa, London, Brussels, Rome and Paris. This custom was followed at every national convention through 1941, but I can find no instance of its continuance after that date.

According to personnel at our National Headquarters in Washington, D. C., no wreath in the name of the DAV was placed at these locations during our memorial service the day before yesterday.

As we all know, the conventions are not all work and no play. Far from it. In the past, various types of entertainment have been provided, and always added up to special enjoyment for the delegates. They have enjoyed picnics, concerts, baseball games, boxing matches, clambakes, fish fries, boat rides, bicycle races—you know that was long ago—bingo and stage shoes, just to mention a few.

Through the years, many changes have taken place at our conventions. After World War II, the DAV membership grew steadily. There were many younger delegates who brought their families with them. The halls of the hotels and the swimming pools echoed with the voices of the tots, who were here with their parents.

Anyone who has ever attended a national convention knows that this is a gathering of very unusual people, people who have a special empathy for others with disabilities. But those who have never seen large groups of so-called handicapped people can not believe the attitude of these delegates. And they are amazed at the positive outlook of these veterans.

One guest that I know was utterly astounded by an incident that she witnessed. Two men each wearing shorts, each one with an artificial leg, were having a jumping contest in the lobby of the hotel. That's the spirit of our men and women. They don't feel sorry for themselves, but they have a special empathy for one another.

Strange and wonderful things have happened at these conventions. At the national conclave in Omaha, Nebraska, 1925, a wedding took place on the convention floor during one of the DAV sessions. The couple were united in holy matrimony by the DAV chaplain, with members of the DAV and the Auxiliary serving as attendants and spectators.

Nineteen years later, in 1944, the DAV helped another couple to become man and wife. According to a newspaper article, a Marine veteran of the China and Guadalcanal Conflicts on duty in Nebraska—you've heard of that Nebraska Navy—was planning to marry a local girl when he suddenly received orders for a transfer to San Diego. On the train to his new duty station in California, this Marine met two Medal of Honor winners and the DAV national service officer, who were all en route to the national convention in Denver.

After hearing the serviceman's sad tale of woe, the DAV national service director contacted Marine officials in Washington, D. C. and got the orders changed so the Marine could stop in Denver and attend the DAV convention. The prospective bride hastened to Colorado, and the two were married in a church across the street from the convention site.

Don't say that they don't have empathy and try to help people.

Yes, the national convention is the place where the business of the organization is transacted, but it's also a place where love and compassion are in evidence everywhere.

At the conclusion of each national convention, we have the grand finale, the military ball or the grand ball, as it is now called. It's been a feature since the very early days of the organization.

And the morning after, the delegates hurriedly prepare to leave, to get a cab, to get a bus to the airport, but not before making plans for the next convention. They eagerly look forward to being at the place where many of our veterans see friends they first met in training camps, on ships, in aircraft squadrons, in foxholes, and, yes, in hospitals.

That's all for now. Thanks for listening. [Applause.]

Commander Pearson. Thank you, Thelma. I'm still waiting for that book of your wealth of information that you have presented over the past year as historian that we could have. I bet you it would be the bestseller. When's that going to be completed?

Did you hear that, girls? She needs more information from the members. But her programs, her researches have been beautiful every presentation. It's great. Thank you, Thelma.

Now, I will entertain a motion to accept the reports of the officers that have been given thus far.

Immediate Past Commander SHOEMAKER. Madam Commander, I so move.

Commander PEARSON. Immediate Past Commander Loneita Shoemaker moves that we accept the reports that have been given thus far. Is there a second?

NEC 11th District BARBARA HICKS. Second that motion.

Commander PEARSON. There's been second. Any questions? All in favor; opposed. Thank you. The motion is carried.

And now, at this time, do we have an announcements?

Adjutant TEDROW. We have announcement and committee assignments.

Commander PEARSON. All right. How about announcements and committee assignments all a once. Thank you.

Adjutant TEDROW. We'll try to do this as quickly as possible, so those people who think the may be on a committee, please keep your ears open because I'm going to go through this message once.

[Announcements.]

Adjutant TEDROW. A preview for tomorrow. Tomorrow we will have reports. We will have the first and second reading of the Constitution and Bylaws, and we'll have the reading of the budget.

Now for our committees. First of all, Americanism, and they will meet in the Laligue Room. All these rooms are on the mezzanine. And if there's question as to which room you're going to meet in, in your registration packet is a blue folder and it shows all of the rooms.

From District 1, Jackie Fossiano; District 3, Nancy Dorey; 4, Louise Jacklin; 5, Helen Wert; 6, Rosalyn Skidmore; 7, Fran Fabregas; 8, Marilyn Seemann; 9, Linda Kafka; 10, Pauline Bazan; 11, Mary Kabler; 12, Mary Ann Bibbins; 13, Mildred Vier; 14 Gladys Olson; 15, Eleanor Smith; 16, Ann Dougherty; 17 Mary Burke; 18, Barbara Gentry; 19, Betty Casch; 20 Vivian Brown; 21, Violet Hoots.

And that is the Americanism Committee. Mildred Vier will be the chairman, and Myrtice Vinson will be the advisor.

Community Service. This will be in the Edelweiss Room up on Mezzanine. District 1, Donna Horton; 2, Helen Gasper; 3, Harriet Blaisdell; 4, Louise Barile; 5, Marie Cummings; 6, Gladys Tayloe; 7, Rebecca Doyle; 8, Linda Shepherd; 9, Judy Tolar; 10, Peggy Straub; 11, Judy Uetterling; 12, Nola Pahl; 13, Betty Workman; 14, Ardis Teeter; 15, Mary Ellen Sissman; 16, Ruth DeSando; 17, Cindy Johnson; 18, Mary Johnson; 19, Patty Pancake; 20, Alma Pennington; 21, Maerene Bales.

Chairman of this committee, and this is Community Service, will be Mary Ellen Sissman; Bonita Newell, advisor.

Constitution and Bylaws. This will be in the Dardenelles. District 1, Jean Schifflett; 2, Stella Gnatek; 3, Ann Young; 4, Carmela Bakutis; 5, Sonia Baldwin; 6, Dorothy Davis; 7, Lucille McCarthy 8, Irene Guidry; 9, Elizabeth Overcash; 10, Carol Gray 11, Mary Beth Schulze; 12, Nancy Dunday; 13, Wanit Meese; 14, Mirian Kiser; 15, Louise Herron; 16, Geneva Farmer; 17, Erlinda Ortiz; 18, Bobbie Burson; 19, Jean Smith; 20, Hazel Neill; 21, Polly Bell.

You will elect your chairman, and your advisor will be Evelyn Ramirez, and that's in the Dardenelles Room. And if I am mispronouncing your names, it's not intentional believe me. You can come up and tell me about it later.

History. This is going to be in the Wyeth Room. Okay. From District 1, Doris Schaffer and Connie Johnson; 2, Annette Vir and Annette Tibbetts; 4, Marie Farrauto and Alma Stupak; 5, Carol McNeal and Mary Hudak; 6, Ethel Harper, Elsie Rotenberry; 7, Agnes Gomis, Barbara Reed; 8, Juanita Upton, Ruby Watkins; 9, Anne Reynolds, Dot Whitehurst; 10, Virginia Mecher, Merry Mowry; 11, Jean Ridgway, Barbara Hicks; 12, Terry Griffith, Erma Cheney; 13, Onyx Ulrich, Maxine Archer; 14, Lorinda Yale, Adeline Shoemaker; 15, Betty Werbe, Bonita Mitchell; 16, Melba Morgan, Margarita Andras; 17, Ellen Stanley, Anne Duran; 18, Joan Johnson, Betty Gibbons; 19, Betty Dodge, Donna Erwin; 20, Malada Latham, Charlene Knowles; 21, Jan Archer and Gertrude Tidwell.

And this is History, and Barbara Hicks will be the chairman.

Hospital, the Milan Room. District 1 is Nickie Murray; 2, Victoria Bagetta; 3, Marion Baker; 4, Betty Meridith; 5, Ethelrene Mitchell; 6, Hazel Myers; 7, Jane Brown; 8, Roberta Meade; 9, Joanne McCleney; 10, Millie Jelsma; 11, Marge Davies; 12, Florence Rogala; 13, Ella Tyler; 14, Pauline Rizzi; 15, Laura Moore; 16, Isabel Provensal; 17, Jean Geist; 18, Angie Jameson; 19, Dorothy Strough; 20, Virginia Stewart; 21, Lucy White.

Advisor, Shirley Larson; chairman, Virginia Stewart. That's the Hospital Committee.

Junior Activities. It'll be in Cardinal A. District 1, Janet Snow; 2, Dorothy Bednarczyk; 3, Carol Hurd; 4, Kathleen Pettinelli; 5, Sadie Turner; 6, Nancy Walls; 4, Rosita Simms; 8, Susan Henry; 9, Tara Allred; 10, Shirley Page; 11, Anna Mae Proy; 12, Elaine Morris; 13, Carol Dusza; 14, Dee Ahlstrom; 15, Kathy Horton; 16, Barbara Clark; 17, Becky Lovato; 18, Florence Juncker; 19, Catherine Krappa; 20, Evelyn Shilling; and 21, Karen Ahnberg.

Barbara Maldet is your advisor, and Carol Dusza will be the chairman of the Junior Activities.

Legislative. This is in Cardinal B. District 1, Ellie LaBanbard; 2, Jeanne Leporte; 3, Grace Boland; 4, Barbara Rusnak; 5, Jeanne Zwick; 6, Annie Randolph; 7, Helen Shoudel; 8, Jo Henry; 9, Frieda Lynch; 10, Loretta Sevat; 11, Midge Marinelli; 12, Betty Hagge; 13, Mary Patterson; 14, Karlene Rizzi; 15, Pauline Rickert; 16, Ehring Seetoo; 17, Nora Gonzales; 18, Florella Clifford; 19, Jean Stubbs; 20, Walderine Sullins; 21, Sara Douglass.

And that is Legislative. Your advisor will be Claudia Roy, and Annie Randolph is going to be the chairman.

Mae Holmes. This will be in the Steuben Room: 1, Louise McNally; 2, Connie Rohr; 3, Claire Nadeau; 4, Pat Zappley; 5, Virginia Hartman; 6, Isabel Torres; 7, Christine Cervizzi; 8, Bea Campbell; 9, Ruth Koon; 10, Johann Spalding; 11, Virginia Ward; 12, Wilma Dortch; 13, Irene Sablic; 14, Alice Kriz; 15, Judy McLaskey; 16, Commye Johnson; 17, Bertha Wiedeman; 18, C. Jan Bennett; 19, Giselle Dunn; 20, Marjorie Breninger; 21, Darlene Conroy.

And this is the Mae Holmes, and Rose Marie Schilpp is your advisor, and Bert Wiedeman' will be the chairman. I just read them the way they were typed.

Membership will be in the Travertine Room. District 1, Dot Harrigan; District 2, Dillies Pilevsky; District 3, Marie Sanchez; 4, Selma Fein; 5, Gloria Rexrode; 6, Mildred Velazques; 7, Merillyn McDonald; 8, Dorothy Turner; 9, Vicki Grier; 10, Eileen Williams; 11, June Marshall; 12, Carol Lawrence; 13, Sue Warner; 14, Hulda Olson; 15, Dorothea Pendergest; 16, Joan Tuberville; 17, Edith Pharr; 18, Melba Ketchum; 19, Nita Lucht; 20, Adele Friedlander; 21, Ella Ruth Hall. Shelia Allred will be the advisor on Membership, and Gloria Rexrode will be the chairman.

VAVS. This will be in the Rosetta Room. District 1, Marie Gadbois; 3, Harriett Anderson; 4, Sopha Mate; 5, Rose Graffius; 6, Malinda Johnson; 7, Katherine Garafola; 8, Ernie Covington; 9, Jane Cordell; 10, Mary Jane Sutter; 11, Mary Nagy; 12, Mary Michal; 13, Donna Fields; 14, Marie Doherty; 15, Rosemary Gallagher; 16, Bernice Tenen; 17, Zyla Wagner; 18, Joan Fletcher; 19, Doris Prall; 20, Genell Driscoll; and 21, Eloise Moonay.

And your advisor on VAVS is Nancy Laurence, and your chairman will be Marie Doherty.

On the Nominating Committee—and this will be in the Inverness Room. It may be a long time till we see you again. [Laughter.] And there's a little mixup here. I think that we'll have Miriam Kiser and Coleen Bianchi come into the office after this is over, because I think there may be names switched on this on the Nominating Committee and the Constitution and Bylaws, if you would, after this is over.

Okay. On the Nominating Committee, Inverness: District 1, Betty Victorine; District 3, Edith Pidgeon; District 3, Alma Tucci; District 4, Betty Slacum; District 5, Fran Miller; District 6, Thelma Williamson; District 7, Delores Balcom; District 8, Virginia Mitchell; District 9, Jane Troutman; District 10, Joyce Meines; District 11, L. Kit Seil Feighner; District 12, Betty Wimmer; District 13, Adeline Whetsel; District 14, Coleen Bianchi; District 15, Dorothy van Hoy; District 16, Louise Camp; District 17, Pauline Wright; District 18, Sally Wilton; District 19, Virginia Vyborney; District 20, Louise Rapisand; District 21, Patricia McCoo.

The advisor to this committee will be Loneita Shoemaker. And you will elect your own chairman.

And as I said before, if Coleen and Miriam will come to the office, we'll check this out. Okay?

And, Madam Commander, that's all I have. [Applause.]

Commander Pearson. Thank you very much, Maria. That's a big job to do.

Will the advisors at this time also come up and get your folders.

Commander Pearson. Attention, girls. We haven't recessed yet. Will Miriam Kiser and Marie Doherty please come to the platform.

National. Chaplain Judy, would you please close the Bible so we can recess? And we will meet again tomorrow morning. Our session will begin at 9:00 o'clock on the nose. I now declare this session in recess.

[Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 12:35 o'clock p.m., July 25, 1988.]

TUESDAY MORNING SESSION

July 26, 1988

The Tuesday Morning Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary 66th National Convention convened in the Grand Ballroom of the Loews Anatole Hotel, Dallas, Texas, July 26, 1988, and was called to order at 9:00 o'clock a.m. by Commander Katherine E. Pearson.

Commander **KATHERINE E. PEARSON**. The 2nd Session of the National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary will come to order. We will now have prayer by Judy Uetterling, our national chaplain. Please rise.

Chaplain **UETTERLING**. Lord, help me live my life for Thee, to think of others instead of me, and help me give my very best without regard for need of rest, till I've run the race You've set, and every righteous goal is met. Then may I pause to give Thee praise and all the grace that's blessed my days. Then praise only will I lay down a life of work, to Thee a crown, unworthy token though it be, to You who give so much for me. Amen.

Commander **PEARSON**. We will now have the pledge by our Americanism Chairman, Myrtice Vinson.

3rd Jr. Vice-Commander **VINSON**. Please stand tall like proud Americans and join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country.

[Pledge of Allegiance.]

Commander **PEARSON**. You may be seated. And at this time, we will have the Credentials report.

CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN. This is the Credentials report. Can everybody hear me? No? Oh! All right. Credentials report: Total units registered, 333; departments registered, 43; grand total, 1,295. Delegates registered, 762; alternates, 82; guests 175; for the grand total, 1,019.

Votes: Unit votes, 2,297; department votes, 43; national officers and chairmen and NECs, 29 votes; past national commanders, 16 votes for a total of 2,386.

Can you hear me now? All right. I don't want you to miss this if your name is called. The following units need to report to the Auxiliary Headquarters office in order to be cleared for voting: Arkansas, Unit Number 12; Florida, Unit Number 40; Michigan, Unit 110; New York, Unit Number 5; New York, Unit 126; Texas, Unit Number 78, Texas, Unit 106; Texas, Unit 186; Philippines, Unit Number 12; Puerto Rico, Number 6.

See Pat Kemper in the National Headquarters office to be cleared. The ones that were just called, you need to see Pat Kemper and get cleared to vote.

Thank you, Madam Commander.

Commander **PEARSON**. Thank you.

And now at this time, we will go into the reports and the awards. I know you have all been looking forward to this, to see what our convention has to offer to us.

We will have the Americanism report. Myrtice Vinson.

3rd Jr. Vice-Commander VINSON. I would like to ask the Chairman, Mildred Vier, to please come forward with the report.

Ms. MILDRED VIER. National Commander, national adjutant, national officers, past national commanders, delegates and guests to the 66th National Auxiliary Convention: The National Americanism Convention Committee met in the Laligue Room at 2:00 o'clock on July the 25th, 1988. Our advisor was Myrtice Vinson; Barbara Gentry was elected secretary.

And before I give my report, I'd like to name the committee people: From District 1, Jackie Fossiano; District 3, Nancy Dorey; District 4, Louise Jacklin; District 5, Helen Wert; District 6, Rosalyn Skidmore; District 7, Fran Fabregas; District 8, Marilyn Seesamm; District 9, Linda Kafka; District 10, Pauline Bazan; District 11, Mary Kabler; District 12, Mary Ann Bibbins; District 13, Mildred Vier; District 14, Gladys Olson; District 15, Eleanor Smith; District 16, Ann Dougherty; District 17, Mary Burke; District 18, Barbara Gentry; District 20, Vivian Brown; and District 21, Violet Hoots.

The following units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Americanism Award. Special Americanism Award went to Western Number 24, Montevideo, Minnesota. [Applause.] We picked this because of an excellent program that they gave for the MIAs and the POWs. Is anyone here to receive that? Is anyone here from Minnesota that would take this, state commander—well, the national commander's right here. Here's the lady coming.

All right. While she is coming, we will read the next one. Group 1: 10 to 50 members, Mountain Tops Number 29, Oakland, Maryland. [Applause.]

And while this lady's coming from Maryland, we'll have Group 2: 51 to 100 members, Simi Valley Number 55, California. [Applause.] And here comes our lady from California.

Group 3: 101 to 200 members, Birmingham Number 4, Birmingham, Alabama. [Applause.]

Group 4: 201 members or over, Glendale Number 20, Glendale, Arizona. [Applause.]

We only had one recommendation. We recommend that the states not write the place winners on the report they are sending in. We had reports that came in that said, "First place, second place, third place." Do not write your state place winners on your reports.

We had one other. We had a portrait of a World War II veteran sent in, and this was an excellent report we read, and we'd just like to give the name of this child that sent this in. It was sent in by a 16-year-old, Stephanie J. Garrison from Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. This will be up here if anybody wants to read this.

Thank you.

Commander PEARSON. Thank you, girls. And I want to congratulate each one of you for the excellent job, and congratulate each one of the winners. But I know everyone is a winner when they participate in Americanism programs.

At this time now, Community Service, Bonita Newell.

4th Jr. Vice-Commander NEWELL. Thank you, Madam Commander. I'd like to have our chairman come up, Mrs. Sissman.

Mrs. Mary Ellen Sissman. National Commander, national adjutant, national officers, past national commanders, delegates and guests of the 66th National Auxiliary Convention: The National Community Service Convention Committee net in the Edelweiss Room at 2:00 p.m., July 25, 1988. Our advisor was Bonita Newell; Rebecca Doyle, secretary.

I would like, since we spent a little more time, from 2:00 to 4:00, judging our reports, I would like to have the members of the committee stand for a little recognition for their hard work, caring attitude, and their diligence, and, I felt, caring and fairness for judging these reports. So, girls, if you're in the room, would you please stand. [Applause.]

Donna Horton, District 1; Helen Gasper, District 2, which she was absent. District 3 is Harriet Blaisdell; District 4, Louise Barile; District 5, Marie Cummings; District 6, Gladys Tayloe; District 7, Rebecca Doyle; District 8, Linda Shepherd; District 9, Judy Tolar; District 10, Peggy Straub; District 11, Judy Uetterling; District 12, Nola Pahl; District 13, Betty Workman; District 14, Ardis Teeter; District 15, myself; Number 16, Ruth DeSando; District 17, Cindy Johnson; District 18, Mary Johnson; District 19, Patty Pancake; District 20, Alma Pennington; District 21, Maerene Bales.

And I want to thank Bonita for her help in the judging of when we had question.

I'm going to let the awards—you're going to have to sit on needles and pins another minute or two. I'm going to read our recommendations first before I announce the winners. And I want you to listen carefully. This is the only recommendation the committee had.

That when filling out the heading of the report form, a working member of the unit be counted only, no matter how many different categories one time she participates in within the Community Service Program. This would clarify the number of working members, so would not exceed the total senior members.

That means we, on our reports, let's say—I'll pick a distant number out of my head—we had senior members, 102. Then over in the next line that said "working members," it might be 300, or 200 and some. So what we are saying is that your working members should not exceed the number of members you have.

So, have we thoroughly confused you with this recommendation?

All right. Now, the committee, we would like to commend all units that submitted reports. All of you are doing very good work. We'd like to give recognition to every one of you, but rules state otherwise.

Group 1: 10 to 50 members, Washington County Unit 7, Hillsborough, Oregon. [Applause.]

I'll go ahead, and you can be lining up here.

Group 2: 51 to 100 members, Archer T. Gammon Unit 19, Danville, Virginia. [Applause.]

Group 3: 101 to 200 members, Shehan Pake Unit 7, Mobile, Alabama. [Applause.]

Group 4: 201 members and over, Nob Hill Unit Number 26, Colorado Springs, Colorado. [Applause.]

Washington County?

4th Jr. Vice-Commander NEWELL. It is really with a great pleasure that I give this plaque to you in honor of working so hard for our National Community Service this year, and to all of your girls in the unit. Thank you so much.

MEMBER. Well, I wiil accept it on behalf of Washington County Southern. They're a hard-working unit, and the lady who is their mainstay, she's in a little cart, she is not capable of walking.

MEMBER. I'll accept this for Washington County Unit Number 7. The lady who is their mainstay and their driving force is in a little cart. And ladies, she accomplishes a heck of a lot more than I do, and I've got two feet and can ambulate. She's a great lady. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

4th Jr. Vice-Commander NEWELL. This is the category of the award for 51 to 100 members, and this is to—would you name which one for me?

Mrs. SISSMAN. A. T. Gammon from Danville, Virginia, Unit 19.

4th Jr. Vice-Commander NEWELL. And you know that I congratulate all of you, and a lot of hard work was done. Thank you so much. [Applause.]

MEMBER. Thank you, and I accept this for our unit, and we're very proud of it. [Applause.]

And now that we have more people in the room, we will have the first reading of the Constitution and Bylaws.

Ms. LOUISE HERRON. Commander Katherine, national adjutant, national officers and past national commanders, delegates and members: The Constitution and Bylaws Committee met in the Dardenelles Room at the national convention in Dallas, Texas on Monday, July the 25th, 1988 at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by National Judge Advocate Evelyn Ramirez, and the members of the committee made the following proposals for changes in the Constitution and Bylaws.

Commander PEARSON. Thank you very much, Louise. As you know, there will not be action on the Constitution and Bylaws at this time. That comes at the second reading.

You want to stand up and stretch just a minute? Just a minute.

Okay, girls, we will go on with our reporting, with our committee reports. We will now have the History report, Margaret Hass.

Ms. MARGARET HASS. National Commander, officers, delegates and guests: The History Committee met in the Wyeth Room at 2:00 o'clock to complete the judging of both the history reports and the history books. I want to thank all 40 committee members and express my appreciation for your serving on the History Convention Committee. Barbara Hicks was our chairman, and Jan Archer recorded our winners.

The committee members were as follows—and I ask that they please stand as we call their name, and remain standing so we can show them our appreciation. This committee met til 6:30 in a room that was set up for 21, and we were 40, and they were beautiful about it. So please hold your applause until they are all standing.

District 1, Doris Schaffer and Connie Johnson; District 3, Annette Vir and Irene Tibbets; 4, Marie Farrauto and Alma Stupak; 5, Carol McNeal and Mary Hudak; 6, Ethel Harper and Elsie Rotenberry; 7, Agnes Gomis and Barbara Reed; 8, Juanita Upton and Ruby Watkins; 9, Anne Reynolds and Dot Whitehurst; 10, Virginia

Mecher and Merry Mowry; 11, Jean Ridgway and Barbara Hicks; 12, Terry Griffith and Erna Cheney; 13, Onyx Ulrich and Maxine Archer; 14, Lorinda Yale and Adeline Shoemaker; 15, Betty Werbe and Bonita Mitchell; 16, Melba Morgan and Margarita Andras; 17, Ellen Stanley and Anne Duran; 18, Joan Johnson and Betty Gibbons; 19, Betty Dodge and Donna Erwin; 20, Malada Latham and Charline Knowles; 21, Jan Archer and Gertrude Tidwell.

And now, let's show these ladies how much we appreciated their work. [Applause.]

We are also going to give our recommendations first and keep you in suspense for the awards. First of all, Questions 7 and 8 on the history report need to be clarified. Round trip to the hospital or VAMC meant one round-trip to help the Judging Committee take into consideration units that have a very great distance to these facilities to their volunteering.

The committee thought another larger membership category should be added, as there is much more competition in the 200 and over category than in any of the other categories.

They felt that the history report should be deleted from the back of the history book, and that the senior membership, which decides the category, should be entered in Section 1. This would greatly ease the task of putting and keeping the history books in their correct senior membership category. Senior members decides the category.

The new, more extensive tally sheet was well received by the committee and made the judging easier.

Another recommendation is that we would have less reporting for units, and it should be the objective of the National Headquarters in the future.

If less judging was needed to be done at convention, there would be more time available for the seminars and for our purpose of planning ahead for the veteran and his family's need.

I would like to ask if the new National History chairman could be added to the DAV magazine mailing list to help in compiling the national commander's history book.

Our organization has had one great year, and the history books brought to our convention show it was well recorded. And please, could I ask that you would pick up your book as soon as you can from the Headquarters. Thank you.

And now I'd like to introduce my chairman, Barbara Hicks, who was very nice to work with. Barbara, for the awards.

NEC 11th District **Barbara Hicks**. Thank you. Something Margaret didn't add was Margaret and I did not leave the room until five after 8:00 last night.

I would like to give the history awards first for the reports, instead of the books. Would you please come up following one another, please.

Group 1: 10 to 50 members, Williston Number 9, North Dakota. [Applause.]

Would the 14th District Executive Committeewoman please come and pick this up?

Group 3 would be 51 to 100 members, which is Norristown Number 25, Pennsylvania. [Applause.]

Would the Executive Committeewoman for this district come, if there is no one else here, please.

We gave 10 to 50. There was none for the first one.

Group 4 was 101 to 200 members. Oakland Number. 7, California. [Applause.]

Group Number 5, 201 members or more, Phoenix Number 1, Arizona. [Applause.]

Before I present the Williston Award to our NEC from 14th District, I want to tell you that Williston is a newly chartered unit this year, and the first thing they took in was the department convention, and possibly had one of the nicest ones we've ever had. I'm sure you're going to hear a lot from this Williston Unit.

Ms. **MARIE ENGBERG**. I'm an old member. I want to thank you for everything. I'm 92. [Applause.] I want to thank the unit for everything that's been done. We have a really hard-working unit, and we have one girl that goes to Livermore continually. She has a very sick husband, but she doesn't count, only counts the hours that she works with the other patients.

And I'm from Martinez VA under Lilliam Golino. My name is Marie Engberg. [Applause.]

NEC **HICKS**. Oakland Number 8, NEC California, 101 to 200 members. That was that one? Okay. Pardon me.

Phoenix, Arizona Number 1, 201 members or over.

MEMBER. On behalf of Chapter Number 1, we thank you. Unit Number 1, excuse me. [Applause.]

NEC **HICKS**. Okay. Fifty one to 100, Norristown 25, Pennsylvania. [Applause.]

NEC 5th District **VIRGINIA HARTMAN**. I will see that this unit—it's a small unit but a very powerful one—will receive it. Thank you. [Applause.]

NEC **HICKS**. The history books were extremely difficult to judge. Having the new rule where just the top ones from the states come in, we have excellent books, and it was very difficult.

On the books, Group Number 1, 10 to 50 members, Clay County Number 37, Kansas. [Applause.]

Group Number 2, 51 to 100 members, Minot Number 4, Minot, North Dakota. [Applause.]

Group Number 3, 101 to 200 members, Omaha Beach Number 7, Bowie, Maryland. [Applause.]

Group Number 4, 201 members or over. After much deliberation and many hours or regoing over, we have a tie: Tampa Number 4, Florida [applause]; Fort Worth Number 20, Texas. [Applause.]

Ladies, these history books are absolutely beautiful. We are going to hold the department in suspense.

MEMBER. Clay County 37 in Kansas, and I made this book. I've been making them for about ten years now. And I'm going to tell you, it's a lot of work. Yes. So, thank you much. I'm going to appreciate this. Thank you. [Applause.]

NEC **HICKS**. I will present the Group 2, 51 to 100 members to Minot Number 4. It's with much pleasure that we present this to you.

MEMBER. Thank you for the plaque.

NEC **HICKS**. And the ladies that are receiving awards, if their books were in, ladies, they were not in the judging.

MEMBER. You can't imagine how excited and happy I was when the committee chose the Minot history book. The lady that has been making the history book is a lovely, dedicated working woman, and she has worked hard for our organization, and comparable each year. It's been here for several years. And this year she almost made a perfect one, and I'll be just so pleased, it'll be just wonderful to go home with this award for her. Thank you. [Applause.]

NEC **HICKS**. Omaha Beach Number 7, Bowie, Maryland. Congratulations.

Ms. **HAZEL MEYERS**. Thank you very much. I only wish this group of ladies from Bowie, Maryland were here to receive this award, because they are one of the greatest, most loving and caring about their veterans and their families, and we of Maryland thank you. [Applause.]

I'm Hazel Meyers, Department of Maryland commander.

NEC **HICKS**. Tampa Number 4, Florida. Congratulations.

Ms. **RAMONA LANGE**. I'm Ramona Lange, commander of Tampa for this year. This is my daughter's book. Last year she had a perfect book. She forgot to put a history report in it. So I'm real proud of this one. [Applause.]

NEC **HICKS**. Since we were not prepared for a tie, Fort Worth's will be mailed to them.

Do we have something that we can take a picture with?

Ms. **JOYCE** M. **DYE**. Joyce Dye, commander of Blue Bonnet 20, Forth Worth. Words leave me. Thank You, girls of 20; I appreciate you. Thank you. [Applause.]

NEC **HICKS**. Department. Ladies, you have no idea how difficult this was. However, the committee ended up with the department history book going to the Department of Florida. [Applause.]

Congratulations.

Ms. **IRENE** H. **STEVENS**. I'm Irene Stevens. I'm the past department commander. This is Agnes Gomis. She made this possible. Ramona, Mary and Delores, thank you so much. We are great in '88. [Applause.]

NEC **HICKS**. Please keep the history books coming in, girls. They are beautiful. Thank you.

Commander **PEARSON**. Thank you, and thank you for your dedication to stay there so long. I know what the judging of these history books is, but it does reflect a beautiful year for each one of you, and memories will always be in those books. So, girls, keep it up and maybe next year each one of you will bring in a book. Wouldn't that committee love that? [Laughter.]

And now at this time, we will have the Hospital chairman, Shirley Larson.

Ms. **SHIRLEY LARSON**. Greetings, ladies. I would like to give you my yearly report before the chairman comes up, Mrs. Stewart.

Madam Commander Katherine, officers, past national commanders and delegates to this national convention of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, Loews Anatole Hotel, Dallas, Texas, July 23 through the 28th, 1988: One of my main objectives as National Hospital chairman was to make our Auxiliary members aware of the patients or residents in hospitals, nursing homes and soldiers homes, who are members of the Disabled American Veterans and its Auxiliary, and our concerns for their comfort and welfare.

I feel much of this has been accomplished if the hospital forms are accurate. However, many of the units reported no activity, along with incompleted information, such as neglecting to give the unit's number, location, and number of members, which makes it very difficult to give credit to the proper unit, if not impossible.

In spite of this, I'm proud to announce our hospital volunteers spent 531,716 hours in various facilities, drove 479,170 miles to perform their duties and donated $505,915.63 towards the various programs designed to assist the residents.

Some of the different ideas I thought worth mentioning were: Setting up a country store for residents to purchase gifts for family and friends; setting up sing-along music and dancing parties, of all things; bowling groups; initiating a grandparent program; and, of course, observing all the special holidays.

Several units subscribed to large-print monthly magazines, and those who cannot actively participate are thoughtful enough to mend residents' clothing, along with making the lap robes, wheelchair caddies, and so forth.

And how many ladies have had the opportunity to experience Louisiana hospitality first-hand, such as Commander Katherine and I did? Ellen Kolly was our constant escort from the airport to a unit Christmas party, and finally to and from Carville, Hansen's Disease Center, a good distance from Metairie where a party, prizes, fruit baskets and lunch were hosted by National Headquarters and the Department of Louisiana. And can those ladies bake cakes!

A cosmetic tour of this 337-acre campus was conducted by Administrative Assistant Julia Elwell who graciously gave a running commentary on the buildings and grounds, but didn't have the number of patients who were veterans or members of veterans' families at that time.

Unit 33 should be titled "Hospitality Plus," as their members were ever so gracious to us. We shall never forget them.

A special highlight for me was being part of the planning of, as well as attending Commander Katherine's testimonial at the Hilton Hotel in Minneapolis. I hope everyone in attendance enjoyed it as much as I did.

I attended the national fall conference in Cincinnati and presented a short skit there, with the assistance of my very cooperative and talented Minnesota ladies.

I also attended the 14th District conference and have submitted four bulletins that were sent out from National Headquarters.

I thank you, Commander Katherine, for the appointment as National Hospital chairman, and hope as partners in service we, as a group, have helped make a difference to our hospitalized veterans and their families through the efforts of all our Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary members. I thank you for the privilege. [Applause.]

And now, Mrs. Stewart, please.

Mrs. VIRGINIA STEWART. Thank you, Shirley, and I know that you have much concern for those hospitalized veterans and their families in the communities. You're stressed this many, many times, and you really—your skit at the fall conference proved just how concerned you were. Thank you.

National Commander, national adjutant, national officers, past national commanders, delegates and members: The National Non-VA Hospital Convention Committee met in the Milan Room at 2:00 p.m., July the 25th, '88. Our advisor was Shirley Larson, and our secretary was Angela R. Jameson.

Would this diligent committee stand as I call your name. District 1, Nickie Murray; District 2, Victoria Bagetta; District 3, Marion Baker; District 4, Betty Meridith; District 5, Ethelrene Mitchell; District 6, Hazel Myers; District 7, Jane Brown; District 8, Roberta Meade; District 9, Joanne McCleney; District 10, Millie Jelsma; District 11, Marge Davies; District 12, Florence Rogala; District 13, Ella Tyler; District 14, Pauline Rizzi: District 15, Laura Moore; District 16, Isabel Provensal; District 17, Jean Geist; District 18, Angie Jameson; District 19, Dorothy Strough; District 20, myself; District 21, Lucy White.

Would you girls please stand? [Applause.]

As I call your names for your awards, would you please come up? Group 1, 10 to 50 members, Oakland, Maryland, Number 29. [Applause.]

Group 2, 51 to 100 members, Atola, Oklahoma, Number 60. [Applause.]

Group 3, 101 to 200 members, Mobile, Alabama, Number 7. [Applause.]

Group Number 4, 201 members and over, South Bend, Indiana, Number 7. [Applause.]

Now, this committee also wanted honorable mention given to Minnesota Number 6 to Hazel Frykmann. I want to tell you, ladies, she is 86 years old. She has driven 4,320 miles through the weather of Minnesota, and—by bus—she has a total of 1,440 hours, and she has given for 20 years with her heart and her service. [Applause.]

We also want to give honorable mention also to Phoenix, Arizona, Number 1. [Applause.]

Oakland, Maryland, Number 29.

Ms. **HAZEL MEYERS**. Once again, I'm Hazel Meyers, and I'm the department commander, but this also is my own unit, and this was my own committee, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. [Applause.]

Mrs. **STEWART**. Atola, Oklahoma, Number 60.

Ms. **GERTRUDE TIDWELL**. On behalf of Moran Scott Morris Number 60, Atola, Oklahoma, and as department commander for the State of Oklahoma, I am very grateful for this award. Thank you. Gertrude Tidwell. [Applause.]

Mrs. **STEWART**. Mobile, Alabama, Number 7. [Applause.]

Ms. **JOAN JACKSON**. I'm Joan Jackson, and on behalf of Number 7, Mobile, Alabama, thank you. [Applause.]

Mrs. **STEWART**. South Bend, Indiana, Number 6. [Applause.]

M. **MARTHA GILMER**. Martha Gilmer, member from South Bend, Indiana, Number 6. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mrs. **STEWART**. I would like to thank Shirley Larson for all her kind counseling and advising us through this committee. We worked until 5:30. Thank you. [Applause.]

I'm sorry. We have some recommendations. Sometimes these forms mix up some of our people in the Auxiliaries, and so we thought that we would try to see if we could make this more simple. On your form, we want to put on the bottom, "Any donation over a thousand dollars should be itemized on the back of the form." It should have two lines, "Full value for new items," and "Half value for used items."

Number 2 on the form, or Number 2, Line 8, we want to put on there, "Monies are given"—we want to delete this completely from the form because the money is given by national mandate of $1 per unit. Line 6 on the form, we want to take out "value of and hours." We wanted to read, or we'd like for it to read, it would read, "personal service donated, such as errands, emergency treatment, doctor calls, and etcetera," and then a dollar mark for you to put in there money.

All units should use the report form only. Don't use old report forms. If you don't have a new report form, write your National Hospital chairman and get it, or the national adjutant, I presume, right?

Hospital. Here's another one that seems to mix everybody up. Hospital visits can be individualized; example, if four people go to the hospital, then that is four visits, not one. For instance, if the four of you come in a car together, that is four visits but only mileage for one car, not four cars, because you came in one car. Okay?

And that is it, National Commander. [Applause.]

May I speak for one minute and thank the office staff and Maria and Judy for all the help they have given. I call down there, I write to them, and I get an answer so quickly. We have one of the most efficient offices, I think, in the whole country. [Applause.]

Commander **Pearson**. That's for sure.

And now we'll have the Junior Activities, Barbara Maldet.

Ms. **Barbara Maldet**. Commander Katherine, national officers, past national commanders and delegates: At our department convention, the Junior Activities chairman, Norma Somales, said something that I'd like to repeat to you. She said, "When you sign up a junior member, take her under your wing, teach her about the Auxiliary so that when it's time for her to become a senior member, it will not be like joining a new organization. It will just be a continuation of what she has already known." And I thought that was good that I wanted to repeat it to you.

I received about 880 reports. A third of them had activity reported. Two-thirds of them had no activity at all. With the Junior Miss and the Miss Teenager reports, please only submit what is asked for. Submit the completed report form, a picture and a resume. Do not submit letters, scrapbooks or additional pictures, because we cannot judge those.

Our senior membership is great. It's about 160,000, over that. And I have checked back in the records, and the junior membership has run about ten percent of the senior membership, but this year we have a little over 11,000, so out there somewhere there are at least 4,000 junior members for you to get. Now, I know there's a lot more than that. And I would like to encourage you to go out and sign them up.

I don't want to say it's your duty, because it's not a duty, it's a privilege. It's each unit's privilege to go and sign up the junior member and teach her about the organization. And I would urge you all to take that privilege and use it.

I'd like to thank Maria, Judy. They're always there. The whole staff is there when you call and need something done, and I appreciate that so much.

I would also like to presume upon the Texas hospitality and say, "Go round up the juniors, please."

Now, I'd like to turn this over to Carol Dusza, who is the chairman.

Ms. CAROL DUSZA. Thank you, Barbara. Good morning. National Commander, national adjutant, national officers, past national commanders, delegates and guests: The National Junior Activities Convention Committee met in the Cardinal A at 2:00 o'clock p.m. on July 25th, 1988. Our advisor was Barbara Maldet, and Tara Allred was our secretary.

I would like to introduce our committee, and I'm very sorry that we had to meet this morning, but it was important. And would you please hold your applause.

In District 1, there was Janet Snow; District 2, Dorothy Bednarczyk; 3, Carol Hurd; 4, Kathleen Pettinelli; 5, Sadie Turner; 6, Nancy Walls; 7, Rosita Simas; 8, Susan Henry; 9, Tara Allred; 10, Shirley Page; 11, Anna Mae Proy; 12, Elaine Morris; 13, myself; 14, Dee Ahlstrom: 15, Kathy Horton; 16, Barbara Clark; 17, Becky Lovato; 18, Florence Juncker; 19, Catherine Krappa; Number 20, Evelyn Shilling; 21 is Karen Ahnberg.

And again, I would like to thank Barbara for her advice. [Applause.]

The following units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Activities Awards.

Group 1, 1 to 50 members was Clarence Lemley, Tom Unit 24 Valley City, North Dakota. [Applause.]

Group 2, 51 to a hundred members was Louis A. Parr, Unit 220, Porter, Texas.

Group 3, with 101 to 200 members was Phoenix Unit 1, Phoenix, Arizona. [Applause.]

And the Group 4, 201 members and over, we did not have any reports.

Ms. LILA M. TAIT. I'm Lila Tait, delegate from Unit 24, Valley City, and on behalf of our unit, I'm glad to accept this award. Thank you. [Applause.]

MEMBER. I am the Region 4 commander in Texas, and I'm going to accept this award for Louis A. Parr 220. I know all the ladies in this unit, and they work so hard with their juniors. They're just a magnificent group. Thank you very much on behalf of them. [Applause.]

Ms. MELBA KETCHUM. I'm Melba Ketchum from Phoenix Unit 1. I accept this. Girls, we can make it happen. Thank you. [Applause.]

Ms. DUSZA. Again, we didn't have any reports for 201 members and over.

On the Junior Activities book, the winner was Unit 3, Green Bay, Wisconsin. [Applause.]

Ms. **Carol Lawrence**. I'm Carol Lawrence from Green Bay, Wisconsin, and I truly thank you for this for our juniors. [Applause.]

Ms. **Dusza**. National Teen Junior Miss is Christy Marie Walters from Unit 83, Aberdeen, North Carolina. [Applause.]

Ms. **Josephine McCleney**. Josephine McCleney, immediate past department commander. I'm doubly proud to accept this award on behalf of North Carolina, and Chrissie is also the junior from my unit. [Applause.]

Ms. **Dusza**. For National Junior Miss, age 7 to 12, was Ruth R. Turner from Tri-City Unit Number 8, Chandler, Arizona. [Applause.]

Ms. **Shirley Kosisky**. I'm Shirley Kosisky from Tri-City Unit 8, Mesa, Arizona. On behalf of our unit, thank you very much. [Applause.]

Ms. **Dusza**. Again, I would like to thank the committee and Barbara for their help. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander **Pearson**. Thank you, girls. Thank you very much. We will now have the Legislative report by Claudia Roy.

2nd Jr. Vice-Commander **Roy**. Would the chairman of this committee, Annie Randolph, please come to the podium.

Ms. **Annie Randolph**. Good morning, ladies. National Commander, national adjutant, national officers, past national commanders, delegates and guests of this 66th National Auxiliary Convention:

The National Legislative Convention Committee met in the Cardinal B Room at 2:00 p.m. on July the 25th, 1988. And our advisor was Claudia Roy. Our secretary was Ehring Seetoo.

And first of all, let me thank our advisor. She was very, very helpful. Without her, I could not have done the job. Thank you, Claudia.

The following units were judged to be the best in their category. I will save the different districts that helped me until last. But the following units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Legislative Award.

Group 1, 10 to 50, Vernon County, Wisconsin, Number 37. [Applause.]

And Group 2, 51 to 100 members was Bourne, Massachusetts, Number 12. [Applause.]

And Group Number 3, 101 to 200, was Joseph McNerney, New Jersey, Number 41. [Applause.]

And Group Number 4, 201 members and over was Phoenix, Arizona, Number 1. [Applause.]

Ms. **Shirley A. Murphy**. I'm Shirley Murphy, Joseph McNerney Unit 41, Trenton, New Jersey. On behalf of my unit, I thank you all. [Applause.]

Ms. **Florella J. Clifford**. Phoenix Number 1. I'm Florella Clifford. I'm the commander of the unit, and my chairman is great. [Applause.]

Ms. **Randolph**. In Category Number 3, the 101 to 200.

This is in the category of 1 to 50, Wisconsin.

Ms. **Nancy Dunday**. I'm Nancy Dunday, the state commander for Wisconsin, and I'll be very pleased to take this award back to these gals. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Ms. **Randolph**. And this one is for the category of 51 to a hundred. This is Bourne, Massachusetts. [Applause.]

Ms. **Jean Shifflett**. Hi! I'm Jean Shifflett, the state commander from Massachusetts, and I'm very proud to accept this for Bourne Unit Number 12. Thank you. [Applause.]

Ms. **Randolph**. Now I will give you the recommendations that the committee gave to us. The recommendations in regards to reports follow as to subjects and the bill number, as well as to the prize received from Legislation. They wanted that to say "subject and bill number" instead of just "subject/bill number."

And resolution in regards to equal DIC was introduced, and Mary Patterson recommended that the committee sponsor same and introduce same to the floor. The resolution is:

> Whereas, the National organization of Disabled American Veterans has, in session at national convention, resolved to take actions and lobby federal legislation to initiate legislation to equalize dependent indemnity compensation, DIC; and
>
> Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary has taken no affirmative action in promoting legislation for equalization of DIC on a nationwide basis; and
>
> Whereas, equalization of DIC benefits will directly benefit many members of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary;
>
> Therefore, be it resolved that Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary members will be requested to contact federal legislators concerning equalization of DIC benefits; and
>
> Further Resolved that the national organization of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary will, by national mail-out, inform the membership of this affirmative action to be taken with direct on as to the formation of correspondence which will produce favorable response from the members' appropriate legislation.
>
> Adopted unanimously by Disabled American veterans Auxiliary, Department of Arizona, in convention at Tucson, Arizona, on May the 6th, 1988.

And now I would like for all the committee from the different districts to please stand as I call your name:

District 1 was Ellie LaBanbard. Would you please stand and remain standing. Jeanne Leporte, District 2; Grace Boland, District 3. I'm sorry I didn't give your state. Massachusetts 13 was Number 1. Number 2 was New York Number 30. And Grace Boland was Rhode Island, Number 3.

Barbara Rusnak, New Jersey 41; Jeanne Zwick, Pennsylvania Number 1; Annie Randolph, myself, Number 6; Helen Shoudel, Florida Number 18; Jo Henry, Tennessee Number 70; Frieda Lynch, Georgia 44; Loretta Sevat, Michigan Number 2; Midge Marinelli, Ohio Number 117; Betty Hagge, Illinois Number 1; Mary Patterson, Indiana Number 1; Karlene Rizzi, Minnesota Number 1; Pauline Rickert, Missouri Number 2; Ehring Seetoo, California 64; Nora Gonzales, New Mexico 26; Florella Clifford, Arizona Number 1; Jean Stubbs, Idaho Number 2; Walderine Sullins, Texas 11; Sara Douglass, Arkansas 5. [Applause.]

And thanks was given to Claudia Roy for the talley sheets provided for the committee, and the committee was closed at 6:00 p.m. Again, I'd like to thank you, Claudia. [Applause.]

2nd Jr. Vice-Commander **Roy**. Thank you very much, Annie, for serving as chairman of this committee. Thank you, Ehring, for acting as secretary. And thank all the members. I appreciate your patience yesterday. [Applause.]

Commander **Pearson**. Let's show some enthusiasm now, girls. Yay! Keep it on a roll.

And now you can really show some enthusiasm because we are going to have our Membership chairman, Shelia Allred. [Applause.]

1st Jr. Vice-Commander **Allred**. Would the convention membership chairman please come forward, Gloria Rexrode.

And let me tell you, just because we didn't have a report form this year does not mean that this committee did not work. We went through and verified all the computer printouts, and also we went through every population summary to get these awards.

Also, there's a little something I do want to mention. A lot of you that's on committee notice it. Some of you haven't. But you've seen them wearing these committee member ribbons. I've got an advisor, and it's a committee member. That was given to all the members on the committee this year, and I want to thank them for that. I think that's just a little extra added something that means a lot to the women. [Applause.] I think that's really great. It shows that you wore it, something that you can take back, you know, as a souvenir.

Okay, Gloria.

Ms. **Gloria Rexrode**. Good morning, everybody. National Commander, national adjutant, national officers, past national commanders, delegates and guests of the 66th National Auxiliary Convention: The National Membership Convention Committee met in the Travertine Room at 2:00 o'clock, July the 25th, 1988. Our advisor was Shelia Allred. Dot Harrigan was secretary.

Ladies, as I call your name that was on this committee, please stand. District Number 1, Dot Harrigan; District 2, Dillies Pilevsky; District 3, Marie Sanchez; District 4, Selma Fein; District 5, myself; District 6, Mildred Velazques; District 7, Merillyn McDonald; District 8, Dorothy Turner; District 9, Vicki Grier; District 10, Eileen Williams; District 11, June Marshall; District 12, Carol Lawrence; District 13, Sue Warner; District 14, Hulda Olson; District 15, alternate, Marion Rose Daniels; District 16, Joan Tuberville; District 17, Edith Pharr; District 18, Melba Ketchum; District 19, Nita Lucht; District 20, Adele Friedlander; and District 21 was Ella Ruth Hall. [Applause.] Thank you, ladies.

The following units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Membership Awards.

Group 1, 10 to 50 members. We have a tie for that one. Bolivar Memorial 66, Bolivar, Missouri. [Applause.]

Is Ruth Henry here, please? Ruth Henry?

Ransom Otsego Co. Unit 159, New York. [Applause.]

Group 2, 51 to 100 members, Worcester Number 4, Worcester, Massachusetts. [Applause.]

Group 3, 101 to 200 members, St. Paul Number 2, Minnesota. [Applause.]

Group 4, 201 members or over, San Diego 2, California. [Applause.]

Group 5, new unit with the most new members is New Elm 15, Minnesota. [Applause.]

Group 6, the department with the largest percentage increase is Puerto Rico, Department of Puerto Rico. [Applause.]

Group 7, the largest department with a numerical increase is the Department of Florida. [Applause.]

Special membership awards go to Polly Floyd, Alabama 62. [Applause.]

Second place is Fern Louise Miller.

This is 10 to 50 members, Bolivar Memorial 66. [Applause.]

Ms. **RUTH HENRY**. I'm Ruth Henry, department commander of Missouri. On behalf of Bolivar Unit 66, I accept this award. [Applause.]

Ms. **REXRODE**. For New York Ranson, Oswego, New York. [Applause.]

Ms. **VICTORIA BAGGETTA**. I'm Victoria Baggetta, department commander of New York. I'm very happy to receive this award for Unit 159, Richfield Springs, New York. [Applause.]

Ms. **REXRODE**. Fifty-one to a hundred members, Worcester Number 4.

Ms. **CONSTANCE JOHNSON**. Connie Johnson, senior vice, Worcester, Mass, Unit 4, very proud of it. [Applause.]

Ms. **REXRODE**. One hundred and one to 200 members is St. Paul, Minnesota.

Ms. **DOROTHY JOHNNSON**. I am the department commander from Minnesota, and I am very pleased to accept this for St. Paul. [Applause.]

Ms. **REXRODE**. Two hundred and one members and over, San Diego, California. [Applause.]

Ms. **MELBA MORGAN**. I'm Melba Morgan and representing the Department of California, and I want to take this back to San Diego, and I'll be seeing Ernie and the girls next week or next month, and I know how happy they will be. Thank you. [Applause.]

Ms. **REXRODE**. The new unit with the most new members is New Elm 15.

Ms. **JOHNSON**. This time my name is Dorothy Johnson for the Department of Minnesota, and I am very happy to stand here and accept two of them, especially our new unit, New Elm. Thank you. [Applause.]

Ms. **REXRODE**. The department with the largest percentage increase is the Department of Puerto Rico. [Applause.]

MEMBER. Well, I don't used to talk too much, but I receive this gift from you, and I will give it to all my ladies back home because they have done a good job. Thank you to all from Puerto Rico. [Applause.]

Ms. **REXRODE**. The department with the largest numerical increase is the Department of Florida. [Applause.]

Ms. **STEVENS**. I'm Irene Stevens. On behalf of the Department of Florida, I'd love to take this plaque back home. But I must say something in all sincerity. We had the largest numeric, but I have to say thank you, Maria, thank you, Judy, and thank the national family, because, ladies, you did it. Let's blow your horn for National. [Applause.]

Ms. **REXRODE**. Special membership award goes to Polly Floyd, Alabama. [Applause.] For signing up 46 members.

Ms. **POLLY A. FLOYD**. I am Polly Floyd from Selma, Alabama, and I thought that—I didn't dream of this getting here, because at state my commander presented me with a plaque and a hundred dollar savings bond. So this is even doubly nice. Thank you. [Applause.]

1st Jr. Vice-Commander **ALLRED**. She signed up 46 new members, and I think that's great. [Applause.]

Ms. REXRODE. Second place award goes to Fern Louise Miller with 41 members. [Applause.] Anybody know where she's from? She's from Boliver, Missouri

Ms. RUTH HENRY. Ruth Henry, department commander of Missouri. On behalf of Fern Louis Miller, I want to say thank you, and I'll be glad to take this home to her. [Applause.]

Ms. REXRODE. Boliver is also a new unit with the most new members.

The committee submitted the following recommendation. They would like to see, to get a life membership in you should be given one full year from the date of sign-up to the date that you pay in full. This was the only recommendation that we had.

Now, I'd like to thank Shelia as our advisor. She's a great joy to work with. Thank you. [Applause.]

1st Jr. Vice-Commander ALLRED. Thank you, Gloria, and thank all the girls that worked with us on the committee.

Commander PEARSON. Thank you Shelia. Thank you each and every one of you members.

And now I see so many members here. If each and every one of you will go out and sign up one new member, that'll be a start for our increase in membership the next year.

At this time, we will have the VAVS report, Nancy Laurence, our VAVS representative. Is the National VAVS deputy here, Lelia McGinnis? Would she come up? Oh, there you are.

Ms. NANCY LAWRENCE. We were running over each other up here. I would like to introduce first of all our deputy representative, Lelia McGinnis. [Applause.] Thank you. I will say that Lelia has been a terrific lady to work with this year, and she is very knowledgeable, and I have deeply appreciated her.

First of all, I'd like to say thank you to the department adjutants this year that sent all of these reports in numerical order of their units on the VAVS reports. And some even specified what units were missing in their departments. And it made my job much simpler when we were tallying up all of these things, because it is a ton of paperwork, whether you know it or not.

And as far as things that were given, I'm not going to specify, because Maria said make this report short. She just doesn't know how short it's going to be.

But I am going to say I appreciate all the hard, sincere and deep work that all of you ladies, your representatives, your deputies, just plain volunteers have done. It is tremendous, and it's a shame that ten of our states did not send in reports, because we really cannot truly tell what we really have donated to our VA Medical Centers. And I think this is a shame.

The representatives that did not send in their VAVS end-of-the-year reports are not making their monthly reports to the National Office. This is also a shame because I hate to say, "Shame! Shame!", but let's face it. You're not doing your volunteers justice. These people that are giving of their time, their love, their money and their support of a sick patient in a VA Medical Center, I think they're entitled to every bit of credit they have coming.

I would like to say that I did receive 1,038 reports this year, and 36 were not properly filled out. What was not filled out was that most of them did not put the—the improper ones were they either did not sign them, or they did not put their unit number on them.

The hours that were accumulated according to what I did have were 437,198. I think that's tremendous. [Applause.]

And if you think that sounds good, the accumulated hours of our Volunteer Services Program is 2,156,014. [Applause.]

And the value of the reports sent in was $1,504,490.60. [Applause.]

The total miles—and also this year, when we're talking of mileage, I am going to add to our National VAVS report, because we do have our transportation program. There are a lot of our ladies that are driving the DAV vans from center to center. I'm one of these ladies. So I'm going to add transportation onto these report forms, and we will put a special thing on the reports for the travel, transportation program. The total mileage on this was 2,248,323 miles. [Applause]. That's a lot of miles.

We had 3,202 volunteers working. And the total number of units participating in the hospitalized veterans handwriting project was, I'm sorry to say, only 103. That is sad. Tomorrow at the seminar, I am going to give you some information, and I will have Veterans' Voice books to give out to each of you, and I do hope that a lot of you attend, because it's going to be very interesting, and we do need to pick up this project because it's very special. Okay?

For my personal report—and it is very short, Myrtice—I would like to say greetings to National Commander Katherine, national officers, department officers, delegates, members and guests. Thank you, Commander Katherine for asking me to be your VAVS representative this year. It has sincerely been an honor and my pleasure to serve you and all the members.

This has also been a learning experience for me as well. Until this year, I never realized that people could ask so many different questions.

My year started off in quite a hurry at the National VAVS School in Florida, and our fall conference at the same period of time in October last year. And our Deputy Representative Lelia McGinnis and myself went to Florida for two days for workshops. She attended some, and I attended others, as we did not want to miss anything pertinent to the organization, and exchanged notes.

We then came to Cincinnati for the remainder of the conference where we informed the membership of goals set for the coming year.

In February, I had the privilege of making a visit to Little Rock, Arkansas, where I met with our past national commander, Loneita Shoemaker, our representative, Eleanor Walkney, Mr. Bartley, the Arkansas Department commander, and the Auxiliary commander, Patricia McCoo. They took me on quite a tour of the town, which I really enjoyed.

The next time we took a tour day, we took a tour of John L. McClelland Memorial Hospital, which was quite impressive. The director of the hospital, Mr. Parrish, and Chief of Voluntary Services David Ooten, along with part of the staff took all of us to lunch in downtown Little Rock. After lunch, we made a visit to North Little Rock facility, where the chief of voluntary services, Mr. Patou, loaded me up with great items which you're going to see tomorrow. They are very different, and some are quite unique.

So after that tour of Little Rock, I went to Shreveport, Louisiana, and it was quite nice also. They were to have a ground-breaking ceremony a week later for a new addition and renovation of that facility.

In March, I had the privilege of going to Washington, D. C. for the National VAVS Advisory Committee meeting. It was very informative, and I also had the honor of having lunch with our national commander, DAV Commander Gene Murphy, Bruce Nitsche, our VAVS, and Dave Gorman, the deputy VAVS, and Sam Piper of the VA, and several others. I feel I had quite a bit of knowledge I received in these meetings we had.

On May the 31st, I went to Idaho, and I'm sorry I had to take someone's place but I sure enjoyed it. After I got to Idaho, I had the special privilege of touring their hospital, and this was the first veterans home I had ever had the opportunity to go in, and I was quite impressed. There was also a lady veteran in this veterans home.

There are 42 veterans homes all over the United States, and I would love to see more, because it was so impressive. They had gardens in the back where wheelchairs could go around, and they would let the patients plant all kinds of things that they liked to see outside in the gardens.

They also had a basketball court for wheelchair patients.

As I said, there was also a lady living in this facility.

And they also took me on a tour in Idaho. Margaret Harlow and her husband John, the department commander, took me to the capitol and several other places. I was privileged to meet their governor and attorney-general. And I really wanted to stay, but I had to go back because I was convention chairman of Texas, and, as they said, that's a mini national convention. So, to no avail, I couldn't change my tickets and stay a while.

Mr. Bruce Nitsche was also in Idaho at the same time, representing National.

This year I've sent out quite a few bulletins to the units and to our representatives. I've made phone calls to our representatives when needed, and answered all correspondence.

I was asked to do some changes in our National Manual, whatever I deemed necessary, and did so. I hope these changes and additions will make the VAVS program easier for you to understand.

I work at my local VA every week. I do drive one of the vans to Houston from Beaumont several times a month. I'm still the coordinator of the voluntary Services at the VA outpatient clinic in Beaumont, Texas. This year I served as senior vice-commander of Region 4, and also as Department of Texas convention chairman.

We also enjoyed very much having Claudia Roy as our national guest in Texas, and I hope she comes back.

There are many great stories I could tell about this year, and I know I failed to mention all of the wonderful people that I have come in contact and associated with. Please forgive me if I've not mentioned you. There are not enough words to express my deep appreciation for all of your kindnesses and considerations you've shown me.

Once again, thank you to all the national officers. Commander Katherine, it's truly been a pleasure this year. And Maria, I know I called you a lot. I think Judy says, "Oh, not her again!" when I call, but sometimes it is a must. But they are always there to help you.

And it has deeply been my privilege, my honor, to serve you as your representative this year, and I deeply love all of you, and keep volunteering. [Applause.]

Lee, would you like to say something?

Ms. **Lelia McGinnis**. Just that it's been a privilege to serve as the deputy VAVS representative this year. I have enjoyed working with Nancy. And, like she said, keep up the good work, keep on volunteering. [Applause.]

Ms. **Laurence**. And now for the goody parts. Here is our chairman, Marie Doherty.

Ms. **Marie Doherty**. Howdy, one and all. First of all, I would like to introduce the members of my committee, who worked very diligently, and we had to work.

District 1, Marie Gadbois. We had no one from District 2. District 3, Harriett Anderson; District 4, Sophia Mate; District 5, Rose Graffius; District 6, Malinda Johnson; District 7, Kathy Garafola; District 8, Ernie Covington; District 9, Jane Cordell; District 10, Mary Jane Sutter; District 11, Mary Nagy; District 12, Mary Michal; District 13, Donna Fields; District 14, Marie R. Doherty; District 15, Rosemary Gallagher; District 16, Bernice Tenen; District 17, Zyla Wagner; District 18, Joan Fletcher; District 19, Doris Prall; District 20, Genell Driscoll; and District 21, Eloise Mooney. [Applause.]

National Commander, national adjutant, national officers, past national commanders, delegates and guests of this 66th National Auxiliary Convention: The National VAVS Convention Committee met in the Rosetta Room at 2:00 p.m. on July 25th, 1988. Our advisor was Nancy Laurence. Sophia Mate was elected secretary.

I am going on with the recommendations first before we give the awards. The committee submitted the following recommendations: That the proper name of unit should be shown on the heading of report form. If not sure of name, refer to your charter. [Laughter.] Proper name of the VA Medical—don't laugh—proper name of the VA Medical Center should be reported on the report form. Now, we notice that under the title it said, "Name of Medical Center," and some of the units put down "Veterans Administration Medical Center."

Avoid the use of abbreviation of city and state. We found difficulty in identifying some of the units for this reason.

Lengthy attachments should attempted to be avoided.

Make sure the original copy of the report form is submitted to the National VAVS representative.

And now, the following units were judged to be the best in their category for the National VAVS Awards.

The Thelma Feighner Award, too far from hospital: Great Falls Number 2, Great Falls, Montana. [Applause.]

Annette Wilson, NEC from District 14, would you accept this award for Great Falls? She's coming up.

Catherine Early Award, 10 to 50 members, Gilbert Number 33, Arizona. [Applause.]

The Vi Hoffman Award, 51 to 100 members, Midway Number 43, Chicago, Illinois. [Applause.]

Bea Hogan Award, 101 to 200 members, Joseph McNerney Number 41, New Jersey. [Applause.]

National Headquarters, 201 and over, Greater Daytona Number 84, Florida. [Applause.]

I want to say that it was a difficult task. I believe every unit should receive some award for their work in the VAVS service. We all give our dedicated time. And thanks to all those volunteers.

The first category is the Thelma Feighner Award, too far from hospital, Great Falls Number 2, Great Falls, Montana. [Applause.]

NEC WILSON. I'm very happy to accept this award for Great Falls Number 2, Montana. They do a lot of work at the nearby VA hospital—not nearby, either. They're a long ways from it.

I also at this tine would like to introduce Adeline Shoemaker, who is Montana's department commander. Would you please turn around, Adeline. [Applause.] We're very proud of this. We're a large state, many miles between cities or places, and it's a long ways to a VA hospital. Thank you.

Ms. DOHERTY. Catherine Early Award, 10 to 50 members, Gilbert Number 33, Arizona. [Applause.] This is special, because this lady, Ms. Catherine Early, is from my state.

MEMBER. This is going to be doubly special for the ladies of Gilbert 33, Arizona. They've only been chartered for three years. So I'm highly honored to accept this. Thank you. [Applause.]

Ms. DOHERTY. Vi Hoffman Award, 51 to 100 members, Midway 43, Chicago, Illinois. [Applause.]

Ms. MARY MICHAL. Mary Michal from Midway 43, Chicago, Illinois. Our unit thanks you very much. They'll be very happy and very excited about this. Thank you. [Applause.]

Ms. DOHERTY. Bea Hogan Award, 101 to 200 members, Joseph McNerney Unit Number 41, New Jersey. [Applause.]

Ms. SHIRLEY MURPHY. Shirley Murphy, commander, Unit 41, Trenton, New Jersey. On behalf of my Auxiliary, I wish to thank you very much, and would my Auxiliary please stand up? [Applause.] Without these girls, I couldn't have done it. Thank you all.

Ms. DOHERTY. National Headquarters, 201 and over, Greator Daytona Number 84, Florida. [Applause.]

MEMBER. Would the members of Greater Daytona Unit 84 please stand up? Come on Christine, Helen, get up. [Applause.] We have another member here. But I want to identify these two ladies. Helen Hartley was the chief of volunteer service at Lake City VA Medical Center, and then she transferred out, but when she retires, she's coming back to us. Sit down just a minute, Helen.

Chris, Chris, get up. This lady has volunteered at Lake City VA Medical Center for 53 years, and she's in my unit. [Applause.]

MEMBER. I would like to make a comment. When they were saying "Helen Hartley," they lost her in Florida, but guess where she is? She's assistant chief of voluntary services in Houston, Texas. [Laughter.]

Ms. DOHERTY. I wish to thank my committee for their wonderful assistance, and especially to our advisor for her assistance and help in judging all these awards. Thank you. [Applause.]

Ms. LAURENCE. I would like to say thank you very much and keep volunteering. You ladies are doing a magnificent job. Thank you.

Commander PEARSON. Thank you very much, Nancy and your committees, and I just want to say thanks to every member that works in the VA Medical Centers, letting those on the inside know that we of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary really care. Thank you girls, each and every one of you, and those that you are representing. [Applause.]

We will now have the Mae Holmes Award, and our national senior vice, Rose Schilpp is in charge of those.

Sr. Vice-Commander SCHILPP. Thank you. Would Bertha Wiedeman come to the front, please?

As you know, this is the Mae Holmes Award, and it's awarded to the units that have participated the most in all programs of the senior Auxiliary. The junior program are not included in this. Bertha.

Ms. BERTHA WIEDEMAN. National Commander Katherine, National Adjutant Maria, national officers, past national commanders, delegates and guests of this 66th National Auxiliary Convention: The National Mae Holmes Convention Committee met in the Steuben Room at 2:00 p.m., Monday, July the 25th, 1988. Our advisor was Rose Schilpp. Our secretary was Darlene Conroy. I would like for the committee to stand and be recognized. When I read their names, will they please stand: District 1, Louise McNally; District 2, Connie Rohr; District 3, Claire Nadeau; District 4, Patricia Zappley; District 5, Virginia Hartman; District G, Isabel Torres; District 7, Christine Corvizzi; District 8, Bea Campbell; District 9, Ruth Koon: District 10, Johann Spalding; District 11, Virginia Ward; District 12, Wilma Dortch; District 13, Irene Sablic; District 14, Alice Kirtz; District 15, Judy McLaskey; District 16, Commye Johnson; District 17, myself, Bertha Wiedeman; District 18, Janet Bennett; District 19, Giselle Dunn; District 20, Marjorie Breninger; and 21, Darlene Conroy. [Applause.]

On behalf of all the committee members and myself, we would like to thank our advisor, Rose, for all of her assistance.

The committee submitted the following recommendations. Questions Numbers 7 and 8 were very confusing, and we would like to have them clarified.

Now for the winners. The following units were judged to be the best in their category for the National Mae Holmes Award.

Group 1, 10 to 50 members, Choctawatchee Unit 102, Florida. [Applause.]

Eferd Lynn, Unit 7, Michigan, for Group 2, 50 to 100. [Applause.]

Group 3, 101 to 200 members, Joseph McNerney 41, New Jersey. [Applause.]

Group 4, 201 members and over, Greater Daytona Number 84, Florida. [Applause.]

MEMBER. Department of Florida. On behalf of Unit 102, I'll take the award to them, and we sure are the greatest in '88. [Applause.]

MEMBER. On behalf of the State of Michigan, I wish to thank you all, and also this is our representative from their Unit Number 7, Margaret Clute We're very proud and happy. Thank you. [Applause.]

Member. On behalf of my Auxiliary—we're an old Auxiliary; we were chartered January the 8th of 1936, and we have a lot of old members, so we don't have too many young ones, but we hope to get some some day. Thank you. [Applause.]

Ms. **Wiedeman**. Unit 41, New Jersey.

Ms. **Shirley Murphy** I'm here again, okay? And on behalf of Joseph McNerney Unit 41, as I said before, without these girls, I couldn't have done it. Please stand, girls. Thank you all. [Applause.]

Ms. **Wiedeman**. Unit 84, Florida.

Member. On behalf of Unit 84, we thank you very, very much. This is a great honor. This is the best one. Thank you. [Applause.]

Ms. **Wiedeman**. Again, I would like to thank the members of the committee for their hard, hard work, and thank you, Rose, for your assistance.

Sr. Vice-Commander **Schilpp**. Thank you. I will say the committee met from 2:00 to 5:15, to be exact. A lot of reading, a lot of work. But we had fun, too. We enjoyed it. Thank you, girls, for serving on the committee.

For you girls out there that haven't been applauding, you should applaud these gals for serving on the committees. But did any of you stand up and say, "I'll be glad to serve on this committee?" Come on, be honest.

Thanks for your work. [Applause.]

Commander **Pearson**. Do we have any announcements at this time?

Adjutant **Tedrow**. You people have been very, very patient; not very noisy, but very, very patient. And I made a motion that New Jersey and Florida be seated down here in front to liven this joint up. [Laughter and applause.]

We've come to the end of the reports except for the budget, and it is getting late, and we did tell you that we wanted you to caucus to discuss the Constitution and Bylaws with your representative that was on the committee.

We will come back at 1:30. Be prepared to come back to hear the finance report, Constitution and Bylaws, and get your wallets out, because we're going to have an Ed. Loan report.

[Announcements.]

Commander **Pearson**. Thank you, Maria.

We are now recessed until 1:30.

[Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 11:43 o'clock a.m., July 26, 1988.]

TUESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

July 26, 1988

The Tuesday Afternoon Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary 66th National Convention convened in the Grand Ballroom of the Loews Anatole Hotel Dallas, Texas, July 26, 1988, and was called to order at 1:10 o'clock p.m. by Commander Katherine E. Pearson.

Commander **Katherine E. Pearson**. The session is now in order, and we are going to start out with the Finance Committee report. Vernice Eunice is chairman.

NEC 8th District **Vernice Eunice**. Thank you, Katherine. National Commander Katherine, national officers, past national commanders, National Executive Committee women and delegates: the National Finance Committee held their first meeting on August the 20th, 1987. All the members were present. We had very little business, and it was taken care of quickly, and we adjourned to meet at the fall conference.

The fall conference meeting was held on October the 24th, 1987. Again, all members were present. The income and expense sheets, and also the Life Membership Fund were reviewed. It was explained that money in the Life Membership Fund can only be used for life membership. This also applies to the Educational Loan Fund. All accounts were reviewed and explained to the new members of the Finance Committee.

Our committee met again April the 25th, 1988 at National Headquarters in Cold Springs, Kentucky. All members were again present. We were happy to have the four of us, as well as National Commander Katherine, National Senior Vice-Commander Rose Schilpp, National Judge Advocate Evelyn Ramirez, and National Adjutant Maria, and also Assistant Adjutant Judy.

It was our job to prepare the 1989 budget. After reviewing the income and expense sheets and the membership reports, we began work on our proposed budget. There was a great deal of thought put into this budget, because of the vast increase of our members, and another mail-out was going to be made.

It was after a lot of thought, figuring and refiguring, we arrived at the proposed budget figures.

It's been an honor to serve these past two years on the National Finance Committee and to have served as chairman this past year. This committee has worked very hard, and together we had a very successful two years.

I would like to introduce these ladies to you. As I call your name, would you please stand and remain standing? Lorraine Hanna, District Number 12; Virginia Hartman, District 5; Fannie Proctor, District 7; and, of course, our national commander, Katherine; and serving as our secretary, National Adjutant Maria; and Assistant Adjutant Judy; our advisor, National Judge Advocate Evelyn Ramirez.

Please give these lovely ladies a big hand. [Applause.]

Also, I would like to add my personal thanks to each member. Also, our committee could not have functioned without the help of the staff at National Headquarters. Maria, Judy and the entire staff made us feel right at ease and really made us feel welcome when we met for our April meeting in their office.

Commander Katherine, all delegates have received a copy of the proposed budget. We need to make one correction. Under the "Expenses," down where it says "Payroll (8 employees)," this needs to be changed to "(9 employees)." Everyone see that? Okay.

I, Vernice Eunice, move for the adoption of this budget.

Commander **Pearson**. The motion has been to adopt this budget. Is there a second?

NEC 7th District **FANNIE M. PROCTOR** Madam Commander, Fannie Proctor, Unit 87, Florida. I second that motion.

Commander **PEARSON**. We have a second. What is the wish of the Auxiliary? Are you in favor/opposed. Motion carried.

Thank you, Vernice, you and your committee.

Ms. **EHRING W. SEETOO**. Madam Commander, Ehring Seetoo, Unit 64 in California. As long as we're talking about money, how about taking up the collection for the Education Loan Fund at this time? Would that be permissible?

Commander **PEARSON**. Yes, that would be permissible at this time. We'll carry on with the committee reports while we're doing that. Thank you.

Does everybody have a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws proposals?

I'd like to remind you at this time that if you care to be heard on the floor, will you please go to the microphone and say what you have to say over the microphone. I will not recognize anybody from the chairs. If you have something to say, you know you're going to say it, go to the microphone, please.

Ms. **MARY L. FOX**. Madam Commander, Mary Lee Fox, Johnson County 34, Overland Park, Kansas. I have a check for the Educational Loan Fund of $200 from a little, bitty doll we donated off.

Commander **PEARSON**. Would you bring that forward, please? Thank you very much.

Ladies, please hold your cash donations for any of the other funds until afterwards, and then we'll call for them.

Also, at this time we will be acting on the Constitution and Bylaws, and I'll now turn this part of the program to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee chairman. Louise, if you please.

National Judge Advocate **EVELYN RAMIREZ**. I'd like to introduce you to the Constitution and Bylaw chairman, Louise Herron, who chaired the meeting, helped us get through some serious changes, challenges, and such that were within the committee. Louise.

Ms. **HERRON**. Thank you, Evelyn.

I would like to get started right away with these, and I will introduce my committee at the end of the reading.

1988 Bylaw amendments. To create a new Article IV titled "Tenure of Elected National Officers" to be added to the National Bylaws. This article would read as follows, Article IV, "Tenure of Elected National Officers."

> Section 1. An elected national commander of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary shall not serve more than one term.
>
> Section 2. Each elected officer shall serve until the adjournment of the succeeding national convention and thereafter until her successor is installed.
>
> Section 3. In case of the removal of the national commander from office, or of her death, resignation or inability to discharge the duties of her office, the same shall devolve upon the senior vice-commander. In the case of the removal, death, resignation or inability of both the commander and the senior vice-commander, the duties of the office shall devolve upon the office of the first junior vice-commander, and if further vacancies occur, the duties shall devolve upon the remaining vice-commanders in order of their rank.
>
> Section 4. In the case of the removal of the national fourth junior vice-commander, the national chaplain or the national judge advocate, or of their death, resignation or inability to discharge the duties of their office, the national commander shall, with the concurrence by majority vote of the National Executive Committee, appoint a successor to fill these vacancies.

If the above amendment is adopted, the following articles and sections will need renumbering.

Madam Commander, I move that this amendment be adopted.

Commander **Pearson**. Is there a second?

Past National Commander **Betty Wimmer**. Madam Commander, Betty Wimmer, past national commander, seconds that.

Commander **Pearson**. All in favor; opposed. Motion carried.

Ms. **Herron**. Since the first of this has been approved, then the second part of this follows more or less Are there any questions regarding the renumbering of sections? I think it's pretty self-explanatory. All right. For the numbering of the sections that will follow this new addition, then, I move that this amendment be adopted.

Commander **Pearson**. It has been moved that this amendment be adopted. Is there a second?

[Motion seconded from the floor.]

Commander **Pearson**. It has been seconded. Is there any question? All in favor; all opposed. Motion carried.

Ms. **Herron**. Page 5, Article III, Section 5, Paragraph 1. Amend Paragraph 1 by deleting "and National Education Loan Fund director" on Lines 4 and 5; also, by inserting "and" after "National VAVS representative" on Line 3.

Amend Section 5 further by adding a new Paragraph 2, which will read, "She shall also appoint a National Education Loan Fund director and Loan Fund Committee."

Page 5, Article III, Section 5, Paragraph 1, as amended, will read as follows:

> The National Commander shall appoint a National Adjutant, National Hospital Chairman, National History Chairman, National Junior Activities Chairman, National VAVS Representative, and a National Sergeant-at-Arms. She shall also appoint a National Education Loan Fund director and Loan Fund Committee.

Madam Commander, I move that this amendment be adopted.

Commander **Pearson**. It has been moved. Do I hear a second?

[Motion seconded from the floor.]

Commander **Pearson**. It has been moved and seconded that this be adopted. Is there a question? All in favor, Aye; opposed. Motion carried.

Adjutant **Tedrow**. When you're making a motion or seconding, please come to the microphone and give your name, or you're going to be known as "A Member" in the minutes from here on in.

Ms. **Herron**. Since this amendment has been adopted, the present Paragraph 2 following Paragraph 1 will become Paragraph 3, and the present Paragraph 3 will become Paragraph 4. This was left out of the printing. And it will be necessary to change your book until the printing is done, so that we are just renumbering the paragraphs that follow.

Page 9A, Article V, add new Section 7. Section 7 would read as follows: "No national district shall exercise the powers of a governing body or conduct any fund-raising activity."

When reviewing Article V, the sections contained in this article are not printed in a related manner. The sections should be rearranged as follows: Old Section 1 remains Section 1; old Section 3 becomes Section 2; old Section 6 becomes Section 3; old Section 2 becomes Section 4; old Section 4 becomes Section 5; old Section 5 becomes Section 6; and new Section 7 remains Section 7.

I move for the adoption of this amendment.

Commander **Pearson**. It has been moved to adopt this amendment. Is there a second?

Ms. **Betty Boyd**. Betty Boyd, Phoenix Unit. Second.

Commander **Pearson**. It's been moved and seconded. Is there a question?

Ms. **Irene Guidry**. I have a question. I'm Irene Guidry from the State of Louisiana. I'm senior vice. I understand that the governing powers does come from the national convention, but my question is, on the national districts being prohibited from conducting a fund-raising activity, should the occasion ever arise, don't they have the prerogative that if it arises at present, that they can go to National and ask for permission, giving their reasons, and either receive or have it rejected at the present time?

Commander **Pearson**. We'll have National Judge Advocate Evelyn Ramirez respond to you.

Judge Advocate **Ramirez**. In the DAV parent organization Constitution and Bylaws, there is no provision for a national district to hold any fund-raising sales or any kind of activities for the department, for the district within the department, for the unit. You cannot have a national district fund-raising program.

Ms. **Guidry**. So apparently this would be just to clarify and add additional clarification to what's there already? Okay. Thank you.

Commander **Pearson**. Any other questions? All in favor; opposed. Motion carried.

Ms. **Herron**. Page 11, Article VI, Item B, Paragraph 2.A. Amend A by deleting "two" and inserting "three" between the words "having" and "full." Page 11, Article VI, Item B, Paragraph 2.A as amended will read as follows:

> Life membership may be secured on a monthly installment payment plan, having three full membership years to complete payments after the first payment has been received.

I move for the adoption of this amendment.

Commander **Pearson**. Is there a second?

Ms. **Guldry**. I have a second. From Louisiana, Senior Vice Irene Guidry. I second it.

Commander **Pearson**. It has been moved and seconded that we adopt this amendment. Is there a question? Hearing no question, are you all in favor, Aye; opposed. Motion carried.

Ms. **Herron**. Page 14, Article VIII, Section 1. Amend Section 1 by adding the following:

> Each state department shall hold an annual state convention at a time and place selected by their respective Disabled American Veterans state department.
>
> The governing powers of each state department shall be the state department convention, and the state Executive Committee between conventions.

Page 14, Article VIII, Section 1, as amended, will read as follows:

> The Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, for the purpose of administration, may be divided into state departments. Each state department shall hold an annual state convention at a time and place selected by their respective Disabled American Veterans state department.
>
> The governing powers of each state department shall be the state department convention, and the state Executive Committee between conventions.

I move for the adoption of this amendment.

Commander PEARSON. It has been moved for the adoption of this amendment. Is there a second?

NEC 4th District BETTY J. SLACUM. Betty Slacum, NEC, District 4, seconds that motion.

Commander PEARSON. It has been moved and seconded. Is there a question? Hearing no question, are you all in favor; opposed. Motion carried.

Ms. HERRON. Page 14, Article VIII, Section 3. Amend Section 3 by deleting the last sentence which reads, "Rules governing such groups shall be included in the state's Bylaws or Standing Rules," and substituting the following:

> No such districts, regions or zones shall exercise the powers of a governing body or conduct any fund-raising activity. They shall operate under Rules or Bylaws adopted by their state department; provided, however, such Rules or Bylaws are not inconsistent with the state or national Constitution and Bylaws.

Page 14, Article VIII, Section 3, as amended, will read as follows:

> In states where districts, regions or zones of the Disabled American Veterans are established, the Auxiliary may establish identical districts, regions or zones.
>
> No such districts, regions or zones shall exercise the powers of a governing body or conduct any fund-raising activity. They shall operate under Rules or Bylaws adopted by their state department; provided, however, such Rules or Bylaws are not inconsistent with the state or national Constitution and Bylaws.

I move the adoption of this amendment.

Commander PEARSON. You have heard the motion Is there a second?

Ms. JEAN SMITH. Jean Smith, District 19. I second the motion.

Commander PEARSON. It's been moved and seconded. Is there a question?

Ms. SUSAN MCANANY. Yes, there is. Sue McAnany from department of Michigan, senior vice-commander. My question is—in Michigan, our zones have fund-raising activities to help out the department. We receive permission from our parent organization to hold these fund-raising activities, and last year alone in zone 1 we donated over $3,000 to the department through our fund-raising activities.

Now my question is—our department depends on the zone's fund-raising to exist. What little money we keep in this zone is for postage for our zone commander, little things like that that come up. We don't keep hundreds of dollars or thousands of dollars in our zone treasury. Some of our zones vote to deposit all their money within the department.

Now my question is: How are we going to support our department if we're not allowed to have fund-raising activities, which have been approved prior by the men's department?

Commander PEARSON. We're going to ask the national judge advocate, Evelyn Ramirez, to respond.

Judge Advocate RAMIREZ. Perhaps there is a misunderstanding, Susan, of the change. The second paragraph, "They shall operate under Rules or Bylaws adopted by their state department" and "provided, however, such Rules or Bylaws are not inconsistent"—if you've asked for permission within a department, district or zone, and that approval has been given, you're operating under the rules of your Constitution and Bylaws.

Ms. McAnany. I wanted to make sure that was clear, because we didn't want any confusion when we went back. Thank you.

Commander Pearson. Any other questions? Are you all in favor, say Aye; opposed. Motion carried.

Ms. Herron. On the next article there was a typographical error. It should read, "Amend Paragraph 3," instead of "Amend Paragraph 2." And then it will read as follows. Page 14, Article VIII, Section 4, Paragraph 3. Amend Paragraph 3, first sentence by adding "Two copies of" prior to "all amendments," et cetera.

Page 14, Article VIII, Section 4, Paragraph 3, as amended, will read as follows:

> Two copies of all amendments to, or revision of, state Constitution and Bylaws adopted at a state convention must be submitted to National Headquarters for the national judge advocate's approval before becoming official.

I move the adoption of this amendment.

Commander Pearson. You have heard the motion. Is there a second?

NEC Slacum. Second that motion.

Commander Pearson. It is moved and seconded. Is there a question? All in favor; opposed. Motion carried.

Ms. Herron. Page 15, Article VIII, Section 5, Paragraph 2. Amend Paragraph 2 by adding the following sentence: "Voting shall continue until one candidate has received a majority of votes cast by eligible members present and voting."

Page 15, Article VIII, Section 5, Paragraph 2, as amended, will read as follows:

> Nominations of state officers shall be made by an elected Committee on Nomination of State Officers, and from the floor of the convention. Voting shall be by voice when there is no contest in the election for an office. When there are two or more candidates nominated for any one office, voting shall be by roll call vote. Voting shall continue until one candidate has received a majority of votes cast by eligible members present and voting.

I move the adoption of this amendment.

Commander Pearson. You have heard the motion. Is there a second.

Ms. McAnany. I second the motion.

Commander Pearson. It has been moved and seconded. Is there a question? All in favor; opposed. Motion carried.

Ms. Herron. Page 16, Article VIII, Section 5, Paragraph 7. Amend Paragraph 7 by deleting entire paragraph and substituting the following:

> A state Executive Committeewoman or alternate is not considered a state officer. She represents her unit on the state Executive Committee. Her term of office shall be the same as the state department officers, and she shall be installed at state convention or post-convention state Executive Committee meeting, or soon thereafter, by a proper installing officer.

I move for the adoption of this amendment.

Commander Pearson. You've heard the motion. Is there a second?

Ms. Violet F. Hoots. Violet Hoots, District 1, second the motion.

Commander Pearson. It's been moved and seconded. Is there a question? All in favor, say Aye; opposed. Motion carried.

Ms. Herron. Page 17, Article VIII, Section 10, Paragraph 3. Amend Paragraph 3 by deleting, "If the gross income of any state fund-raising activity" and substitute, "If total state fund-raising (gross) income." I have added two words here. In proofing the typing, we noticed that the word "state" had been left out in copying from the blue book, and I have included it here, and you might want to include it on your copies.

All right. "If the gross income of any state fund-raising activity," and substitute, "If total state fund-raising (gross) income."

Also, on Line 2 add "(s)" to "project."

Page 17, Article VIII, Section 10, Paragraph 3, as amended, will read as follows:

> If total State fund-raising (gross) income exceeds $15,000, the statement of the project(s) must be reviewed and verified by an independent or certified public accountant, and sent to Auxiliary National Headquarters.

I move for the adoption of this amendment.

Commander **Pearson**. You've heard the motion. Is there a second?

Ms. **Carolyn Wigley**. Carol Wigley seconds the motion.

Commander **Pearson**. It's been moved and seconded. Is there a question?

Member. Yes. In the statement, should the word "state" be capitalized?

Ms. **Herron**. I would have to look at my blue book. I don't have it with me.

Commander **Pearson**. We will hear from our national judge advocate one more time.

Ms. **Herron**. Evelyn says that it should be capitalized.

Commander **Pearson**. Are you ready for the question? All in favor, signify by saying Aye; opposed. Motion carried.

Ms. **Herron**. Page 17, Article VIII, Section 12. Amend Section 12 by deleting the entire section and substituting the following:

> No State department of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary shall conduct any fund-raising project or fund-raising activity without the prior consent of the DAV State department and the DAV National Executive Committee. Where no commissions are to be paid, no approval shall be required from the DAV National Executive Committee when the gross receipts will be less than $1,000.

Page 17, Article VIII, Section 12, as amended, will read as follows:

> No State department of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary shall conduct any fund-raising project or fund-raising activity without the prior consent of the DAV State department and the DAV National Executive Committee. Where no commissions are to be paid, no approval shall be required from the DAV National Executive Committee when the gross receipts will be less than $1,000.

I move for the adoption of this amendment.

Commander **Pearson**. You've heard the motion. Is there a second?

NEC **Slacum**. Second the motion.

Commander **Pearson**. It's been moved and seconded. Is there a question? All in favor, signify by saying Aye; opposed. Motion carried.

Ms. **Herron**. Page 18, Article IX, Section 2. Amend Section 2 by deleting:

> Units formed in the last quarter of one membership year shall be exempt from payment of all national mandates for the next membership year. Those exemptions do not apply to the fidelity bond premium.

And substitute the following:

Quota units, formed in the last quarter of one membership year, shall be exempt from payment of all national and state mandates for the balance of the membership year in which the unit is formed, and the following membership year.

Units reactivated during the 18-month period that the charter is held by National Headquarters shall be exempt from payment of all national and state mandates for the balance of the membership year during which the charter is reissued. These exemptions do not apply to the fidelity bond premium.

Page 18, Article IX, Section 2, as amended, will read as follows:

New units shall be exempt from payment of all national and state mandates for the membership year in which the unit is formed. Quota units, formed in the last quarter of one membership year, shall be exempt from payment of all national and state mandates for the balance of the membership year in which the unit is formed, and the following membership year.

Units reactivated during the 18-month period that the charter is held by National Headquarters shall be exempt from payment of all national and state mandates for the balance of the membership year during which the charter is reissued. These exemptions do not apply to the fidelity bond premium.

I move for the adoption of this amendment.

Commander PEARSON. It has been moved, the adoption of this amendment. Is there a second?

Ms. LEONA I. SHARP. Leona Sharp, past department commander of Michigan. I second the motion.

Commander PEARSON. It's been moved and seconded. Is there a question?

Ms. MCANANY. Yes, ma'am. I'm back again. I have a question. On the original blue book, they didn't state—they had on here that it was exempt from National, but it didn't specify that it was exempt from state mandates. Isn't that a state prerogative as to whether they want to accept it or not? Wouldn't that be infringing on the state's right to decide it for themselves. for the mandates?

Commander PEARSON. Evelyn, would you, please?

Judge Advocate RAMIREZ. But the state sets their own. We're not telling you what you have to set. So in that sense, it's not infringing.

Ms. MCANANY. I had understood from a question that had been raised to me at one time that the states had the prerogative of excusing these mandates if they were asked to, and that was my question. If it specifies that the states will not collect on these mandates, state or national, it doesn't give the sate leeway to collect or not to collect. In other words, it doesn't say in the blue book at present that the state will not——

Judge Advocate RAMIREZ. That you must. It doesn't say that you must.

Ms. MCANANY. Well, this one specifies that they will be, shall be exempt from. national and state. Maybe I'm not wording it correctly. It just wasn't clear as to whether the state—previously the state was not specified that the state would not receive the mandates, and now it would preclude the state from getting mandates as well as National, and the state would not have the option of either accepting or excusing these mandates from the individual cases.

That was my point.

Judge Advocate RAMIREZ. But you see, when the National has exempted them and there will be no mandates collected for them, how could the state expect mandates from them?

Ms. MCANANY. So it would automatically—so what this is doing in effect is saying——

Judge Advocate **Ramirez**. You have a new unit that's getting started or struggling, and sometimes with no funds. You need to give them the support and help them along. And this is just one way of doing it.

Ms. **McAnany**. Well, I understood that. But I had understood also that it was in there that the states, that they could write the states and ask that they be excused, and it was already provided for at that——

Ms. **Virginia Mitchell**. Madam Commander.

Commander **Pearson**. We're just clarifying this.

Ms. **Mitchell**. Madam Commander, on Page 18 at the top of the page—Virginia Mitchell, Unit 80, Alabama—maybe I have an old page. But mine says, "New units shall be exempt from payment of all national and state mandates." She said it was not in there for the state. I find that my book says it is. So it was always in there for the state.

Ms. **McAnany**. Sorry. I had overlooked it. Sorry.

Commander **Pearson**. Any further questions? Are you ready for the question? All in favor, say Aye; opposed. Motion carried.

Ms. **Herron**. Page 21, Article XII, Section 4. Here again, we had a small section left out when we copied from the blue book, and I will give it to you slowly. You might want to put it in. Amend Section 4 by replacing the word "must" with the word "shall," and inserting "in the name of the Auxiliary unit." So, "and inserting 'in the name of the Auxiliary unit' " is what we're adding.

Page 21, Article XII, Section 4, as amended, will read as follows:

> All Auxiliary funds shall be kept in a bank account in the name of the Auxiliary unit and in the custody of the treasurer.

I move for the adoption of this amendment.

Commander **Pearson**. You have heard the motion. Is there a second?

Ms. **Roberta Burson**. Roberta Burson, commander of the Department of Arizona, seconds that motion.

Commander **Pearson**. It's been moved and seconded. Are you ready for the question?

Ms. **Leona Sharp**. Leona Sharp, Past Department Commander of Michigan. In the units that run bingos, we have to keep a separate bingo account, according to our state laws. All monies cannot go into our Auxiliary treasury. We transfer it after, you knew, we get—but we can't go in there right at the start. We have to keep a separate account, separate bank account.

Commander **Pearson**. Evelyn, will you please respond.

Judge Advocate **Ramirez**. The intent is to tell you that it must remain in the control of the Auxiliary and not in a personal account.

Ms. **Sharp**. A bingo account, you know, it is put in in the name of the unit, but it's not in the custody of the treasurer, though; it's in the custody of the bingo chairman.

Judge Advocate **Ramirez**. No. It must be under the custody of the treasurer.

Ms. **Sharp**. You have to have a separate account and the bingo chairman has charge of that account, has to keep the financial reports for the government of your state and everything. It's a state law. There's nothing you can do about it.

Judge Advocate **RAMIREZ**. I don't know if it's a state law in your state. I know that there are many major corporations who have many accounts in one bank account, but they're all kept separate, many funds within one bank account.

Ms. **SHARP**. Yes. Ours is separate. That's what I'm saying. It doesn't go under the custody of the treasurer. It's under the custody of the bingo chairman.

Judge Advocate **RAMIREZ**. May I say something, please? The problem is that these are kept in private individual accounts, and that cannot be.

Ms. **SHARP**. No.

Judge Advocate **RAMIREZ**. The intent of the change was to remove that account from being kept in the individual's account, and then being transferred.

Ms. **SHARP**. It's not. The name of the account is Auxiliary Unit 113's Bingo Account. But it's under the bingo chairman's—it's not in the custody of the treasurer. It's in the custody of the bingo chairman.

Ms. **MARILYN N. BORDELON**. Madam Commander, may I say something? Marilyn Bordelon from Unit 36, Saint Bernard, Louisiana. We have that same problem. We're under the state police that governs our bingo game. Now, they say we have to have separate accounts, but we can't have the same people signing both accounts.

In other words, you have your commander and your treasurer signing your regular account, or your senior vice-commander and the treasurer, you know, there, but we can't have, like, the commander and the treasurer signing our bingo accounts.

Now, what we do about this, we raised that when we had meetings in our state with the state police, but they never gave us an answer on that. They said we have to have it.

The treasurer still handles our account, but she cannot sign the checks. This comes from our state police that governs our games.

Judge Advocate **RAMIREZ**. We're governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the DAV Auxiliary, which says that it has to be an Auxiliary account under the control of the treasurer.

Ms. **BORDELON**. Well, this is what we tell them, but we don't know if they're going to let us do this or not.

Judge Advocate **RAMIREZ**. You must be very, very careful when you're handling other people's funds, and we've tried to make this as explicit as possible by changing——

Ms. **BORDELON**. Well, in other words, both accounts are under our Auxiliary's name, but we have a special bingo account for the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, but they're telling us the same people cannot sign both accounts, a regular account and our bingo account.

Ms. **MCANANY**. In Michigan, it's a little different. On our account, our commander and the treasurer's name is also on the account with mine. My signature has to be on the check with one of them. But when the financial report is made out at the end of every month and sent to our state government, I have to make it out as bingo chairman, not the treasurer.

Commander **Pearson**. All right, girls. Let's get on with this. Each one is allowed to speak once.

Past National Commander **Wimmer**. Madam Commander, may I? Also, we're all governed differently in different states. The way Wisconsin's is set up, we, too, have a problem, because we list our prime officers, commander, adjutant, treasurer. We have three other people designated on the agreement with the state. But if—I happen to be the treasurer from my unit, so I'm the person designated as the treasurer or the person responsible for funds for that particular account. And it's under the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Number G4, Wausau, Wisconsin. We have to put what bank it's at, People's.

We also have to incorporate this into our minutes. If we have a bingo on Monday night and we have a meeting on Wednesday evening, it has to be incorporated into our minutes and read to the complete membership. There's no way.

But the way this is, if it doesn't work in a state, that it would be a treasurer, then you're defeating this purpose because those funds are primarily—I don't know how it's used in Michigan, but that's where we get our hospital money.

So we won't be doing that much, then, if you don't allow us this privilege.

Judge Advocate **Ramirez**. When the committee worked on this particular amendment, what was brought out was that many of the funds in many districts go into a personal account, and a check is then written to the Auxiliary or to whatever they're going to function. This is the intent. That's not the action to take. That's not good control.

I'm sure that there—I mean, it's obvious that there are laws governing your state, but this did not come out in the committee. The districts did not bring that out. This is only meant to clarify that things go under the unit accounting, and the treasurer has control.

Ms. **Virginia Mitchell**. Madam Commander. Virginia Mitchell, Unit 80, Alabama. Is there not a way to amend this for the states who have to use this particular thing? The state government controls their making money by bingo or other things. Can it not be amended to say "except in those states," and I don't know how to word it right here. But in those states which prohibit it, or not necessarily prohibit it, but require other things—I don't know how. I just thought about it.

Could it not be amended to that effect? And we could get on with this business.

Commander **Pearson**. We have a motion on the floor here to accept what we have already discussed in this particular article, and I'm going to call a vote on it. Everyone in favor of this amendment, Aye: opposed. Motion lost. Thank you.

Ms. **Herron**. Page 21, Article XIII, Section 1. Amend Section 1 by deleting entire section and substituting the following:

> Section 1. National officers shall be installed by an Auxiliary past national commander. National Executive Committeewomen and alternate National Executive Committeewomen shall be installed by an Auxiliary past national commander or an elected national officer.
>
> Section 2. State officers shall be installed by an Auxiliary past national commander, an elected national officer, a National Executive Committeewoman; or past state commander. State Executive Committeewomen shall be installed by an Auxiliary

> past national commander, an elected national officer, a National Executive Committeewoman, an elected state officer, a past state commander or district, region or zone commander.
>
> Section 3. Unit officers shall be installed by an Auxiliary past national commander, an elected national officer, a National Executive Committeewoman, an elected state officer, a past state commander, a district, region or zone commander, or a past unit commander.
>
> Section 4. The incoming commander selects the installing officer of her choice, who must be one of the foregoing officers and a member of the Auxiliary in good standing. The Auxiliary Ritual must be used for installations.

I move for the adoption of this amendment.

Commander **Pearson**. You have heard the motion. Is there a second?

Ms. **Mary Devous**. Mary Devous, District 18. I will second, but I have a question.

Commander **Pearson**. The motion has been made and seconded. Now for the question.

Ms. **Devous**. In Section 2, where it then states, "State officers shall be installed by an Auxiliary past national commander, an elected national officer, a National Executive Committeewoman or past state commander," would this then disallow the usage of the national adjutant or the assistant national adjutant, if she were not a past national commander?

Commander **Pearson**. It says, "an elected national officer."

Ms. **Herron**. It says "elected national officer," and the adjutant is an appointed officer.

Ms. **Devous**. Thank you.

Commander **Pearson**. Is there any other question? All in favor; opposed. The motion carried.

Ms. **Herron**. Page 26, Article II, Section 3, Paragraph 2. Amend Section 3 by deleting the entire Paragraph 2 and substituting the following.

I did not reread the section before. It is exactly the same. It's just without—it's exactly the same.

All right. Would you like it read?

[Cries of "No".]

Ms. **Herron**. All right. Page 26, Article II, Section 3, Paragraph 2. Amend Section 3 by deleting the entire Paragraph 2 and substituting the following:

> Prior to state convention, each unit shall elect or appoint a State Executive Committeewoman and Alternate to represent their unit on the State Executive Committee. Their term of office shall be the same as the state department officers, and they shall be installed at state convention or the post-convention State Executive Committee meeting, or soon thereafter, by a proper installing officer.

I move for the adoption of this amendment.

Commander **Pearson**. Do I hear a second?

Ms. **Carol Gray**. Carol Gray, Michigan 9. I'll second that.

Commander **Pearson**. It's been moved and seconded. Is there a question on it? All in favor, say Aye; opposed, No. Motion carried.

Member. Madam Chairman, before we continue with this, this is really quite full. Could we get it emptied so we can refill it? This is really overflowing. We can hardly get anything more in it. The top is coming off.

Commander **Pearson**. Thank you. Glad to hear that.

Member. Madam Commander, we have DAV duffle bags going around now for the Loan Fund also, because that's how they were getting full, so they're coming up from the back in the middle sections, and when we get done, we'll ask if everybody had a chance to contribute.

Commander PEARSON. We'll put the money in the bag, then. Thank you.

Ms. HERRON. Page 26, Article II, Section 4. We have a situation here where a sentence was left off, and I will give it to you. Amend Section 4 by replacing the word "must" with "shall," and inserting "in the name of the Auxiliary unit." Page 26, Article II, Section 4, as amended, will read as follows:

> All Auxiliary funds shall be kept in a bank account in the name of the Auxiliary unit and in the custody of the treasurer.

I make a motion that we accept this amendment.

Commander PEARSON. You have heard the motion. Is there a second?

NEC SLACUM. Second that motion.

Commander PEARSON. It's been moved and seconded. Are you ready for the question?

Ms. JEAN SMITH. Question. Jean Smith, Oregon commander. We just killed the motion that this amends.

Commander PEARSON. This is under a different section. We have to vote on this one.

Ms. SMITH. Okay. But how can you amend something you lost?

Commander PEARSON. You have a question? Fine.

1st Jr. Vice-Commander ALLRED. Commander and Judge Advocate, I may be slow, but this thing you've got missed in here, and what you want to do is put "shall" in there. They almost mean the same thing, and I get the impression that the assembly thinks that it's changing the whole meaning of what you've got to do here.

Like, to me, like these ones that didn't have their treasurer in charge of that bank account now, it's already going against the Bylaws because "must" was already in there. And they're just trying to change it to "shall" now.

So, I mean, if you—am I wrong about this? This is the way I understand it.

Ms. SUSAN MCANANY. Madam Commander, Susan McAnany from Michigan. This is the identical same Bylaw that we just——

Commander PEARSON. It has been presented, and we're going to vote on this particular one.

Ms. MCANANY. Okay. I object for the same reasons as stated before.

Past National Commander LUCILLE O. MCCARTHY. This is under the unit section. You already defeated the one under the state section. However, this was read at the first reading. It must be presented here. And what the changes were, there was a typing error in this when it was typed up.

So there were two things that were changed in this amendment. They were changed in the other one. And that is, the word "must" was changed to "shall," and the committee inserted from the bylaw proposal that was submitted to them, they inserted "in the name of the auxiliary unit." Now, those things were changed in this.

However, as I say, there was a printing error, so that one part wasn't in there. But this is identical to the one you defeated before, but this must be considered because it was read.

Past National Commander **Schulze**. Madam Commander. I felt I should speak on this because I am the one who submitted this from my state department. The reason was to prevent the little old ladies and young ones from taking the money and putting it in their personal account, writing personal checks, when the Constitution and Bylaws clearly state it must have two signatures, and it already states it has to be in the name of the Auxiliary—in the custody of the treasurer, I mean.

The thing was, it did not say, "in the name of the Auxiliary unit." It just said, "shall be kept in a bank account in the custody. of the treasurer." So we're not changing anything about the custody of the treasurer. We are merely inserting in there that it should be in the name of the Auxiliary unit instead of in a personal account.

Now, these bingo accounts they're talking about they already have them in the name of the unit, and the treasurer's name is on the signature card, I'm sure. So you might say that——

[Cries of "No."]

Past National Commander **Schulze**. Oh, they're not?

Commander **Pearson**. All right, girls.

Past National Commander **Schulze**. All right. I was under the impression that although the treasurer couldn't sign the checks, one state said the treasurer could be one of the signators, and one of the other people on the signature card, you know, would be the other signature. So I just meant that that wouldn't phase them, then, because it's still in the custody of the treasurer. It's in her books, recorded, bookkeeping entries.

But your present Constitution and Bylaws does say "in the custody of the treasurer."

Commander **Pearson**. Girls, let's move on. As long as we've discussed this before on the floor, and I thank you for your remarks, but we're going to call for the vote at this particular time. All in favor of this amendment, say Yes; opposed. Motion defeated. We'll keep what we've got.

Ms. **Herron**. Page 28, Article III, Section 3, Item 9. Amend Section 3 by deleting the entire Item 9 and substituting the following:

> 9. Notify all members in writing at least ten days prior to the nomination of officers, election of officers, and/or election of delegates to state. and national conventions.

I move the adoption of this amendment.

Ms. **Louise Camp**. Louise Camp, State of California, seconds that.

Commander **Pearson**. It's been moved and seconded. Is there a question about this one? Are you ready for the question? All in favor, say Aye; opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you.

Ms. **Herron**. Page 32, Article VI, Section 1, Item 8, Paragraph 4. And here again we had a word left out in the typing of the page, and I will put it in when I come to it and tell you. Amend Paragraph 4 by deleting Line 1 as follows: "If the gross income of any unit fund-raising project" and substitute "If total unit fund-raising (gross) income." We have just inserted the word "unit," which was left out.

Also, on line 2, add "(s)" to "project."

Page 32, Article VI, Section 1, Item 8, Paragraph 4, as amended, will read as follows:

> If total unit fund-raising (gross) income exceeds $15,000, the statement of project(s) must be reviewed and verified by an independent or certified public accountant and mailed to Auxiliary National Headquarters.

I move for the adoption of this amendment.

Commander **Pearson**. It is moved. Is there a second?

Ms. **Lawanna Barnett**. Lawanna Barnett, 57, Big D, Dallas, second it, please.

Commander **Pearson**. Is there any question?

Member. Should "unit" not also be capitalized in that section? The word "unit" should be capitalized?

Commander **Pearson**. All right. You want to change it to a capital letter? All right. Yes. Unit will be, too.

All in favor, say Aye; opposed. Motion carried.

Ms. **Herron**. Pages 33 and 34, Article VII, Section 7. Amend Section 7 by deleting the entire section and substituting the following:

> No local Unit of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary shall conduct any fund-raising project or fund-raising activity without the prior approval of the chapter which it is affiliated, and, when required, with approval by the DAV state department. If there is no state department, approval must be obtained from the DAV National Executive Committee.
>
> Where no commissions are to be paid, no prior approval shall be required from the department Executive Committee when the gross receipts will be less than $1,000; provided, however, that advance notice of 30 days to the DAV state department shall be required on all such finance-raising activities.

Page 33 and Page 34, Article VII, Section 7, as amended, will read as follows:

> No local Unit of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary shall conduct any fund-raising project or fund-raising activity without the prior approval of the chapter with which it is affiliated, and, when required, approval by the DAV state department. If there is no state department, approval must be obtained from the DAV National Executive Committee. Where no commissions are to be paid, no prior approval shall be required from the department Executive Committee when the gross receipts will be less than $1,000; provided, however, that advance notice of 30 days to the DAV state department shall be required on all such finance-raising activities.

I move for the adoption of this amendment.

Commander **Pearson**. I have the motion. Is there a second?

Ms. **Sonia Baldwin**. Sonia Baldwin, commander, Department of Pennsylvania, seconds.

Commander **Pearson**. Any discussion? Are you ready for the question? All in favor, signify by saying Aye; opposed. Motion carried.

Ms. **Herron**. Page 41, Closing Ceremony. Amend by inserting a new third paragraph to read as follows: "Commander: Face the flag of our country. Hand salute." Amend further by inserting "Face the altar" after "Commander" in the new fourth paragraph.

Page 41, Closing Ceremony, as amended will read as follows:

> Commander: The business of this meeting has been accomplished. We will now have our closing ceremonies. (***)
>
> Commander: You will face the east, stand at attention in devoted memory of our departed comrades. Though they have gone west, they face the east, as the sun rises for then on a new day. (Pause)
>
> Commander: Face the flag of our country Hand salute.
>
> Commander: Face the altar. the chaplain will give the closing prayer. (Chaplain advances to the altar, gives prayer.)

Chaplain: Dear Heavenly Father, bless and keep our Auxiliary members as we are about to leave this meeting. Help us to be worthy and loyal members, forgiving in spirit, charitable to all mankind and ever ready to assist our disabled veterans. Amen. (Close Bible)

Commander: Conductress, retire the colors. (Colors are now retired to the rear of the hall. Color bearers remain there. As colors are retired, chaplain returns to her station.)

Commander: (*) We are adjourned to meet again. (Specify date of next meeting.)

Madam Commander, I move for the adoption of this amendment.

Commander PEARSON. You have heard the motion. Is there a second?

Ms. ALICE KRIZ. Alice Kriz, department commander for the State of South Dakota. I so second.

Commander PEARSON. Any discussion? Are you ready for the question?

Ms. FLORENCE L. JUNCKER. Florence Juncker, Glendale 20. Many of our units observe this ceremony with the men, with them playing "Taps." And it is not at the end of their meeting, at the closing of the meeting.

Commander PEARSON. We're just talking about the closing of the meeting at this particular time.

Ms. SUSAN HENRY. Susan Henry, Shelby County 70, Tennessee. This may seem a minor point, but when you tell them to "Face the Flag of our Country. Hand salute," just to stay consistent with the rest of it, shouldn't you also include "to," so they're not saluting the rest of the time? And just to stay consistent with what you have, that "Face the altar. Hand salute to."

Ms. HERRON. That portion was deleted, and we moved it down so that the commander would not be repeating herself. The command "to" is part of a military command, and when the men come to a sharp salute at their temple, they do have to complete the command with a "to," to bring their hand down.

Ladies do not do that, and most generally, when we say the Pledge of Allegiance, we bring our hand to our heart, and we are never given the signal to return it to our side.

Ms. JEANNE ZWICK. Madam Commander, Jeanne Zwick, Department of Pennsylvania. I would like to know if this prayer is mandatory, or if we may make up our own prayer, as we usually do? Is this the prayer you want us all to use now?

Commander PEARSON. Yes. This will be the one that we shall use.

Ms. ZWICK. Thank you.

Commander PEARSON. Thank you. Evelyn.

Judge Advocate RAMIREZ. There was a question brought up when you have a joint meeting with the parent organization and the Auxiliary, and that's fine, if you're going to be in with them and their Ritual. But this is set for an Auxiliary meeting, not a joint session.

Commander PEARSON. Are you ready for the question? All in favor, say Yes; opposed. Motion carried.

Ms. HERRON. That is the completion of our changes to the Constitution and Bylaws. I would like to thank our advisor, National Judge Advocate Evelyn Ramirez. She was a great help. And I would like also to recognize the members of my committee. From District 1, Jean Schifflett; District 2, Stella Gnatek; District 3, Ann

Young; District 4, Carmela Bakutis; District 5, Sonia Baldwin; District 6, Dorothy Davis; District 7, Lucille McCarthy; District 8, Irene Guidry; District 9, Elizabeth Overcash, who was also our secretary; District 10, Carol Gray; District 11, Mary Beth Schulze; District 12, Nancy Dunday; District 13, Wanita Meese; District 14, Coleen Bianchi; District 15, Louise Herron; District 16, Geneva Farmer; District 17, Erlinda Ortiz; District 18, Bobbie Burson; District 19, Jean Smith; District 20, Hazel Neill; and District 21, Polly Bell. Thank you all, ladies. [Applause.]

Commander PEARSON. Thank you, girls, on the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, for bringing our Constitution and Bylaws up to date.

At this time, would the Sergeant-at-Arms please bring Marie Doherty to this platform. As she is bringing Marie Doherty to this station, I would like to explain a presentation I would like to make at this time. Each year, the Disabled American Veterans pays tribute to Veterans of the Year. They also give special recognition awards to the outstanding DAV and VAVS members.

But I do believe that the Disabled American Veterans Women's Auxiliary have members that should receive recognition for all the services by participating in all of the programs of our DAVA.

This year, in search of a member found just such a person that meets all of these qualifications. She is one who is concerned about the national, state, district, and unit programs and volunteers her efforts, time, yes, and money, to assist others.

You can see her at the national conventions, the national fall conference, the district meetings, the state conventions and conferences, and, most of all, DAVA local events. She attended the National DAVS Annual Advisory Meeting, and hasn't missed a national commander's testimonial for quite a few years.

I'm sure you know who I'm talking about. She goes on Forget-me-Not drives. You will find her in the street with her cards; and Citizenship Day, she will be there serving lunch; works as a VAVS representative in the VA Medical Centers. She has held offices in her unit, department, and NEC alternate. At that time it was 10th District. She's National DAVS National Chaplain, and, on occasions, at the piano at our national conventions.

Ladies, the list could go on and on. So at this time, Sergeant-at-Arms, would you present Marie to this podium. [Rising applause.]

Thank you. She is deserving of that.

Marie, I would like to present to you this recognition plaque, "For your outstanding service and dedication to the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, July, 1988. Signed, Katherine Pearson, National Auxiliary Commander." Marie, I love you.

Ms. MARIE DOHERTY. Katherine, I am overwhelmed with this presentation. I would like to say that it comes as an opportune anniversary for me. I believe this is the month that I signed up 40 years ago to become a member of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, Minneapolis Number 1.

I hope to continue every effort I can put forth to make this a wonderful organization to be a part of. I have made many friends. And thanks, again, for all your support. [Applause.]

Adjutant TEDROW. And now at this time, with your permission, I have had patiently sitting back here some of the office staff, waiting to use their nimble fingers on the adding machine, should we have a roll call, sitting here with credentials ready to check, and they have been silent and patient, and I know they would like to leave.

I would like to introduce them all at this time, though: Pat Kemper, would you please stand? Pat is my executive secretary. [Applause.] Pat Goodwin. You've seen her at the registration. She takes care of orders at Headquarters. [Applause.] Sandy Smith, registration and accounting department. [Applause.] And we have brought a new girl on the block this Year, so she could see just how much fun we have: Bev Barnes, who also works in accounting. Bev. [Applause.]

Thank You for staying up here, and if you want to leave, you may.

Commander PEARSON. Let's give these girls a standing ovation. They work all year long on on this convention. Thank you so much. [Rising applause.]

Adjutant TEDROW. Now, for all of those who may be aware, we have an Educational Loan Fund. Phyllis Greeney, the director, was not able to attend this convention, due to the fact that her husband is ill. She called and said that she would not be here. However, Judy is here; I'm here, if there are any questions about Ed. Loan. She did send in a short report, and I'm going to ask Judy to come up here and read it for you.

Assistant Adjutant JUDY HEZLEP. "I have been honored to serve our organization as Director of the National Education Loan Fund. It has been a pleasure to serve under National Commander Katherine Pearson this past year. This year, the committee consisted of National Commander Katherine Vice-Commander Rose Schilpp; L. Kit Senior Seal Feighner, former national adjutant; and myself as director. Maria Tedrow and Judy Hezlep joined us at our meeting, and as always were very helpful.

"We were sorry that the Immediate Past National Commander, Loneita Shoemaker, was unable to join the committee.

"The National Educational Loan Fund Committee met at National Headquarters in Cold Spring, Kentucky, on May 23rd, 1988. We reviewed the new applications and the renewal applications. We decided to change some parts of the information sheet that is sent to the students, but did not change the eligibility requirements to be considered for a student loan.

"Let me review the eligibility requirements. They are:

"Children of full-paid life members of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. If the mother is deceased, children of full-paid life members of the Disabled American Veterans.

"Full-paid life members of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

"For students who are eligible, academic achievement and financial need are considerations in granting a loan. I think the eligibility requirements are clear, but every year we have a number of students who do not meet the requirements. When the student writes to me requesting an application and does not state information regarding the above eligibility requirements, I send the information sheet, with a cover letter requesting that if the student feels he or she meets the requirements, to please specify how they meet these requirements when requesting the application.

"Every year we receive applications from students whose mothers are living and are not full-paid life members of the DAVA. One young man sent me his application which was signed by both parents, but based his eligibility on his father's membership in the DAV. I wrote to him stating that since he did not indicate his mother was a full-paid life member, he was not eligible to be considered for a loan.

"He wrote to me again stating, 'My mother is not eligible to be a member of the DAV, since she is not a veteran.' Also, he enclosed a notice his father received, notifying him of his chapter meeting. On the same notice it was mentioned that the Ladies Auxiliary unit of the DAVA was meeting on the same evening.

"Another father whose son was not eligible because his mother was not a full-paid life member of the DAVA wrote and said that since his wife does not drive, she could not be a member of the DAVA.

"The total number of loans granted this year is determined by the money that is available from national mandates and contributions. Often I've had the feeling that students and parents feel that if the eligibility requirements are met, they will be granted a loan automatically, and, as you know, this is not true.

"We grant interest-free loans up to $1,000 per year for not more than four years. The amount of the loan is decided by the committee. The student must be a full-time student attending a college, institute or technical school after graduating from high school. Only one new applicant per family per year is considered.

"The changes that the committee recommended this year are as follows: The student has to maintain a grade point average of at least 2.0, which is considered a C, to be considered for a loan. Many students have a grade point average of 4.0, which is the highest.

"Some students find the adjustment from high school to college very difficult, and do not do as well academically in the first semester. Previously, we would grant them loans for the first semester of their second year, with the understanding that if their marks improved, we would grant them a loan for the second semester.

"The committee felt by requiring a grade point average of at least a 2.0, that they would be motivated to try harder to be a better student.

"Another change is that we require repayment of loans at $25 per month. Repayment amounts were structured so that the loan should be paid within eight years or less. The committee decided that repayment should be, the amount should be changed to $50 per month, with the full loan repaid by seven years or less.

"Billing to former students is handled by the national staff. Thank goodness! Billing for repayment begins 90 days after graduation or immediately upon withdrawal from school.

"This year, we granted 16 new student loans and renewed 32 loans. Two of the students who requested a renewal of their loans decided not to attend college next year. Therefore, the total number of students for the academic year 1988–89 is 46 students. For the academic year 1987–88 we granted loans to 39 students. Because of your concern and contributions we were able to increase the number of students to reach their academic goals.

"Seven students are attending the following graduate schools: Georgetown University of Law; Ohio State University; San Francisco State University; University of Kentucky School of Medicine; Virginia Polytech Institute and State University; Wharton Graduate School of Business Administration, University of Pennsylvania; Worcester Polytech Institute.

"Their fields of endeavor are as follows: Business administration, education, engineering, law, medicine, psychological psychology, speech and language pathology.

"Eleven students are enrolled in the following colleges or institutes: Baro; Daemen; Framingham State; Marist; Scripps; Skidmore; Southeastern Bible; Southern Vermont; St. Benedict; Virginia Polytech Institute.

"Twenty-eight undergraduate students are attending the following universities: Akron; Boise; Clark; Cornell; Indiana; Indiana State; Kent State; Kentucky; Maine, New England; New Mexico; Notre Dame; North Dakota; North Dakota State; Ohio; Oklahoma; Pennsylvania State; Scranton; South Dakota; State University of New York; Suffolk; Texas; Texas Technical; Vermont; Virginia Polytech Institute; and State University of Wisconsin.

"We are assisting 39 undergraduate students to obtain their educational goals.

"As you can see, our students have a wide variety of educational goals and will be attending various colleges and universities throughout the country. As I told you, we are assisting 46 students during the academic year 1988–89. I hope that next year we can increase the number of needy students reach their academic goals.

"As you know, the National Educational Loan Fund of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary started in the early 1930s. We, the Auxiliary, are committed to assisting disabled veterans and their families, and the Loan Fund is one way that we can do this.

"Federal and state cutbacks in granting student loans to students, plus the increase in tuition make it difficult for parents to afford college education for their children. This is particularly true for disabled veterans.

"As you know, we depend on national mandates, contributions from units, state departments of both the DAV and the DAVA, individuals and memorials. We cannot have fund-raisings. We depend on you, the members of the DAVA.

"Many DAVA and DAV state departments, chapters and units do have an amount of money in their budget for the National Educational Loan Fund. I hope that next year we will see an increase. I cannot ask for this, but you can, and I hope you will do so.

"I'm sure that you are as dedicated to our younger generation reaching their educational goals as I am dedicated. Our younger generation is our future, and we should do all we can to assist them.

"I wish to thank Maria Tedrow, Judy Hezlep, and their staff for their continued help and support. The national staff bills former students, sends checks to the schools that the students are attending, and meet with the auditors. When the loan is granted, a check is sent directly to the school and not to the student.

"On behalf of the committee and our students, I wish to thank all of you for your continued support. I also wish to thank my good friend, Nancy Lake, who typed this report for me. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the National Education Loan Fund—she said, 'I will be pleased,' but Maria and I, either one, will be pleased to answer any of your questions.

"In closing, I would like to say that it has been a very busy but rewarding year, working on behalf of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary and assisting our students. Thank you for your kind attention."

And also I'd like to thank you at this time for your support and your donations, and as soon as we can get it counted and balanced out, we'll let you know how well we did. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander **PEARSON**. Thank you, Judy.

Ms. **BEA PULEO**. Madam Commander, may I approach your station?

Commander **PEARSON**. Oh, yes. Please do. State your name and your purpose.

Ms. **PULEO**. Madam Commander Katherine, Bea Puleo, Exalted Junior Clerk, National Order of Alley Cats. I regret to tell you that I'm sorry that our Exalted Golden Cat cannot be with me at this time for the presentation. The doctor has confined her to bed.

I also regret to say our rehab donations were down this past year, so we are sorry we cannot give you the kind of money that we gave you last year, but hopefully maybe things will change for the best for the following year.

I have a check here in the amount of $1500 from the Alley Cats for the National Educational Loan Fund. [Applause.]

While I'm here, I also have a check in the amount of $185 for you for Freedoms Foundation. [Applause.]

Commander **PEARSON**. Thank you, and your Alley Cats. That is great. They come before our every convention with a contribution, and it's certainly appreciated. I just said that we appreciate these checks. They come before the conventions every year with a nice sum of money to help with our projects, and I just want her to thank the Alley Cats for the contributions this year again. Thank you so much. [Applause.]

Will all the Alley Cats please stand and be recognized at this time. There you go. Let's give them a great big hand and a thank you. [Applause.]

Ms. **PULEO**. Thank you, Katherine.

Commander **PEARSON**. Thank you, Bea.

Ms. **ISABEL PROVENSAL**. Madam Commander, Isabel Provensal, state commander for the Department of California. Department of California would like to present a thousand dollars for the Education Fund, and presenting it for us is the senior vice commander, Joan Turbeville of the Department of California.

Commander **PEARSON**. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Ms. **JOAN TURBEVILLE**. California won't let me talk.

Commander **PEARSON**. Well, I'll let you talk. Go ahead and talk.

Ms. **TURBEVILLE**. Anyhow, it's my pleasure to represent California in giving this check.

Commander **PEARSON**. You get me so excited with all this money coming in. Thank you very much.

MEMBER. Madam Commander, my daughter is one of them that's getting the Educational Loan Fund, and from the Department of Ohio, a check for $300. [Applause.]

Commander **PEARSON.** Thank you from the Department of Ohio.

MEMBER. Madam Commander, on behalf of the Department of Michigan, I'm very pleased to present this check for $200 for the Educational Loan Fund, and at the same time to present a check for $210 for unit donations from the department for the Star Equipment Fund.

Commander **PEARSON.** Well, thank you. Please thank the people in Michigan for these nice donations.

MEMBER. Madam Commander, on behalf of Dallas 31, I would like to present a check to the Loan Fund for $200, and I'd like to make one statement. As many of you know, a few years ago, I got up here and talked about what you're doing for me. I have a little additional report, with three semesters to graduation, and I wouldn't have made it if you-all hadn't have been there. So thank you very much, and keep letting the money come in, because I needed it, and I know there's others who do, and there's a lot of conditions on other things where you can't get the money.

So, without you ladies, kids like me wouldn't have a chance in this world. So thank you. [Applause.]

Commander **PEARSON.** Thank you for your message, and thank you for your work.

MEMBER. Hi, Katherine! Alliance Number 50, $100 for the Educational Loan Fund. And I didn't know they were presenting the Freedoms Foundation checks at this time. I have a hundred-dollar check back at my seat. I'll see that you get it.

Commander **PEARSON.** Thank you very much, from Alliance Number 50.

Ms. **ANNA MARTIN.** Anna Martin from Kansas. Every year I give you a check, and I'd hate for you to think I wasn't here this time.

Commander **PEARSON.** Well, thank you. I'm glad you identify yourself like this. Thank you very much.

Ms. **MARTIN.** You're welcome. [Applause.]

MEMBER. Madam Commander, on behalf of the Ernestine Schumann Heink Auxiliary Unit 2, we present $309.89 from our birthday money march.

Commander **PEARSON.** Well, thanks. I'm awful happy that you have a birthday money march, and we appreciate this. [Applause.]

Ms. **DORIS PRALL.** Madam Commander, Doris Prall, State of Idaho commander. We would like to present you with a hundred dollars from our state department.

Commander **PEARSON.** And would you thank your state department for this hundred dollars. Certainly appreciate it. [Applause.]

MEMBER. Madam Commander, the Department of New York would like to give $500 to the Education Loan Fund. [Applause.]

Commander **PEARSON.** And would you thank the Department of New York for us? We certainly appreciate this.

Ms. **LINDA SHEPARD.** Madam Commander, Linda Shepard, Department of Tennessee. We would like to give $500 to the Educational Fund. [Applause.]

Commander **PEARSON.** Thanks to the Department of Tennessee.

Ms. ANN T. YOUNG. Ann Young, treasurer from New Hampshire. The department would like to present you with a check for Education.

Commander PEARSON. Thank you, Ann. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

MEMBER. Madam Commander, coming from Kennebunk, Maine, the home of George Bush and Edmond Muskie, and having served on the Board of School Directors in Kennebunk and Kennebunkport for 12 years, it's a great honor to give this from our local chapter, Number 4, of Biddeford, Maine.

Commander PEARSON. Well, thanks to Number 4 for this contribution. [Applause.]

Ms. CAROLYN MCGARVEY. Carolyn McGarvey, Unit 70, Memphis, Tennessee. I have a check for a hundred dollars for the Educational Fund; also 25 for POW/MIA; and Freedom Foundation, $25.

Commander PEARSON. Thank you. Thank you so very much. [Applause.]

Ms. SONIA BALDWIN. Madam Commander, Sonia Baldwin. The Department of Pennsylvania would like to present this check for $500.

Commander PEARSON. Thank you. And would you thank the department for us, please. [Applause.]

I wish my husband could see this. He never lets me have checks like this, and it goes right out from here to here. [Laughter.]

MEMBER. Madam Commander, on behalf of the Department of Wisconsin, I am very pleased and proud to present this check to the Educational Loan Fund for $500.

Commander PEARSON. Thank you, and thank the Department of Wisconsin. [Applause.]

Ms. JANE STILL. Madam Commander, Jane Still, Department of Alabama. I'm proud to present this check for a hundred dollars from the Department of Alabama.

Commander PEARSON. Please extend our sincere appreciation for this. [Applause.]

Ms. VIRGINIA RENO. Madam Commander, Virginia Reno presents this check from Oakcliff Unit 32, Dallas, honoring our first commander, Dorothy White, and our present commander, Alma Pennington. [Applause.]

Commander PEARSON. Thank you. What a very nice way to remember them.

Ms. JOAN JACKSON. Madam Commander, Joan Jackson, Sheehan Pake 7, Mobile, Alabama. I'd like to present this check to the Educational Loan Fund.

Commander PEARSON. Thank you. I'm sure that the Educational Loan Fund will be very happy to receive this. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mrs. BOYD. This is from me in memory of my husband, Skoop Boyd.

Commander PEARSON. Thank you. Thank you so much. [Applause.]

MEMBER. I'd like to present this check from the Department of Arizona.

Commander PEARSON. Thank you, Department of Arizona. [Applause.]

Ms. **Hazel Meyers**. Madam Commander, I'm Hazel Meyers, Department of Maryland. I'm proud to present this check for $200 for the Educational Loan Fund.

Commander **Pearson**. Thanks to the Department of Maryland. [Applause.]

Ms. **Juanita T. Meece**. Madam Commander, Juanita Meece from the Department of Kentucky. We'd like to present you this check for a thousand dollars.

Commander **Pearson**. Thank You. Thank you so very much. [Applause.] Educational Loan Fund.

Member. This was sent by our department commander of Louisiana, Louise Cole. She couldn't attend because her husband, who is also the commander, the department commander, is very ill.

Commander **Pearson**. Oh, I'm sorry to hear that he's ill, but thank her very much for this contribution. [Applause.]

Ms. **Annie Jo Middleton**. Madam Commander, I'm Annie Jo Middleton, department commander of Arkansas. And I'd like to present this check from my unit in Arkansas.

Commander **Pearson**. Thank you. Thank you for your unit from Arkansas. [Applause.]

Ms. **Nancy Walls**. Madam Commander, I'm Nancy Walls, department commander of the State of West Virginia. I'd like to present this check to you from the State of West Virginia.

Commander **Pearson**. Thank you for the State of West Virginia. [Applause.]

Member. Madam Commander, before I retired from teaching, I had the privilege of being awarded Valley Forge Teachers Medal given by the Freedoms Foundation Awards Jury, and here's my personal contribution to Freedoms Foundation.

Commander **Pearson**. Thank you. Congratulations. [Applause.]

Member. Department of New Mexico. I would like to present this check, and I hope that perhaps in the future, instead of 50, we'll make it 50,000. [Applause.]

Commander **Pearson**. That's a nice goal, but we appreciate the $50, too. Thank you so much.

Member. Madam Commander, a personal donation on behalf of Unit 26, Lujan-Moreno.

Commander **Pearson**. Thank you. [Applause.]

Member. Madam Commander, this is from the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, Freedom Foundation, Unit 4, Maine.

Commander **Pearson**. Thank you. This is for the Freedom Foundation from Unit 4 in Maine. Thank you. [Applause.]

Member. Madam Commander, my son was a beneficiary of the National Education Loan Fund. He has graduated. He is an engineer now serving as an ensign for the United States Navy in New Jersey, and he asked if I would make a donation for him.

Commander **Pearson**. Well, thank you, and will you thank him, too. We appreciate that. [Applause.]

Ms. **Lucy Davis**. Madam Commander, Lucy Davis, senior vice-commander of the Department of Maryland. I'd like to present you this check for $200 for the Freedoms Foundation.

Commander **Pearson**. Thank you. Thank you so very much. [Applause.] This is for the Freedom Foundation.

MEMBER. Madam Commander, the Department of Arizona would like to present you with a check for the Freedoms Foundation.

Commander PEARSON. Thank you. Thanks to the Department of Arizona, for the Freedom Foundation. [Applause.]

MEMBER. From the Department of Puerto Rico, I want to present this check.

Commander PEARSON. Thank you, from the Department of Puerto Rico. [Applause.]

Ms. ANNA BURTON. Anna Burton, Kansas, I'm back. I didn't know you wanted Freedom Foundation at the same time. You can put that on the Freedom Foundation; same amount, same everything.

Commander PEARSON. Well, thank you. I'm sure the Freedom Foundation will appreciate this. [Applause.]

Ms. ANNA M. PROY. Anna Mae Proy, department commander of Ohio. I have two checks, one from the Department of Ohio for Freedoms Foundation for $200, and one from Alliance Number 50 for a hundred dollars. [Applause.]

Commander PEARSON. Will you thank both of them for us. Thanks to all of you to support our programs. We certainly appreciate it, and those recipients, I know, appreciate it. So thank you very, very much.

Maria, do we have any announcements?

MEMBER. This is from Unit 32, Batesville, Arkansas to and Freedom Foundation, two checks.

Commander PEARSON. Thank you. Thank you so very much. [Applause.]

First of all, we will hear from our National Judge Advocate, Evelyn Ramirez.

Judge Advocate RAMIREZ. Do you know how, when you have sat and thought and sat and thought, and somebody else brings up a thought, and you think about it—and I realize that you have voted, and the motions are fact. But let me just remind you—if you've got your blue book, read along. Page 20, Section 4 of Article XII:

> Any state or local chairman raising or collecting funds for special programs shall be required to give an accounting to the respective state department or unit of all funds handled by her. The books of such special funds must be audited when the treasurer's books are audited. All Auxiliary funds must be kept in a bank account in the custody of the treasurer.

That's in your blue book. What was defeated was naming that account. It's in your blue book. And what I heard from some of the comments was kind of surprising in that there are many who have personal accounts going in something. It's in your blue book.

The fact that you defeated the measure that was on the floor does not change what's in here for your state, and a like amendment is in the unit section on Page 26.

I just wanted to bring that to your attention. [Applause.]

Commander PEARSON. Thank you, Evelyn.

Now we will have the announcements. [Announcements.]

Adjutant TEDROW. I have a question here. Does anyone want to sell any Forget-me-Not Luncheon tickets, because if you're in District 7, a few in the District Number 7 need one, and maybe in other districts. Okay? So if there is anyone that might want to sell a Forget-me-Not ticket, please come up here.

Also—now, I don't know how you're going to claim these two tickets. But Jimmy Tillman, who is a friend of the Auxiliary, and has donated money at Forget-me-Not Luncheons every year for a life membership for some lady in our organization, has purchased—and I have them in my possession—has purchased two tickets to the Forget-me-Not Luncheon.

However, as Jimmy always does, there's a stipulation. One is to be given to the oldest member present and the other one is to be given to the youngest member present. [Laughter.]

Okay. We have Marie Engberg here, 92. Do I hear 93? Do I hear 93? Do I hear 93? Who said they were 93? [Laughter.] The thing is, if you are the oldest member and you have purchased a ticket, you can take this one and sell yours, and you'll get your $18 back.

Okay. I just want you to know they're here, and this is going to be your last chance to decide who's going to qualify for them, because tomorrow is the Forget-me-Not Lunch. And it will be at 12:30.

[Announcements.]

Adjutant Tedrow. I haven't found the oldest one yet. Is Marie Engberg the oldest one in this room? She's 93. Marie Engberg is the oldest one in this room. [Applause.] Marie, have you already purchased a ticket? Has a ticket already been purchased for Marie? Okay. Well, this one isn't to be bought. This one is free.

All right. Let's decide who the youngest one is now. Don't all raise your hands at the same time. Let's see. Is there anyone here—there's a young member, if I ever saw one. How about the one over here on the end, the little page. Did you notice the junior pages we have this year? Aren't they cute? How old is she? She's five years old. Can anybody beat that? She's a junior member. Can anybody beat five? Not even in a good day? Are we all in agreement that she qualifies for a Forget-me-Not Luncheon ticket? [Applause.]

Okay. She has a ticket and Marie has a ticket. If you've already purchased a ticket, then let us know because possibly someone in the 7th District might be interested in purchasing it. Okay? Thank you.

[Announcements.]

Adjutant Tedrow. Okay, Marie, Jimmy Tillman says that he wants to buy the oldest lady at the convention a Forget-me-Not ticket so she'll have a lovely time at that luncheon. So this is your ticket, because you qualify as the oldest lady here. Maybe in years, but not in heart. Okay?

Ms. Marie Engberg. Okay. Thank you very much, and whoever bought my ticket, I want to thank him very much. This is the first time this has ever been done for me.

Adjutant Tedrow. Well, you can thank Jimmy Tillman. And by the way, ladies, Jimmy Tillman gave us money at Headquarters for life memberships. We were able to find life memberships for women that had been members maybe for 20 years or better, and they were up in their years and they could no longer afford to buy a membership, and Jimmy told us to use our head and buy those memberships.

We sent out the life cards to these members, and none of them ever sent Jimmy Tillman a thank-you note. I hope that if he does this again, whoever is the beneficiary has a little bit kinder thought about it.

Now we've got the youngest one here. Isn't she cute? How old are you, hon?

CHILD. Five.

Adjutant TEDROW. She's five. Do you like the convention? Are you having fun? Do you want to have more fun? Like to go to the luncheon tomorrow? [Laughter.]

CHILD. Thank you.

Adjutant TEDROW. What's your name?

CHILD. Lindsay.

Adjutant TEDROW. Lindsay? And where do you live?

CHILD. Little Rock. [Applause.]

Adjutant TEDROW. Little Rock where?

CHILD. Arkansas.

Adjutant TEDROW. Arkansas. You live in Little Rock, Arkansas? You mean you live in that same state where Loneita Shoemaker lives?

CHILD. [Shaking head negatively. Laughter.]

Adjutant TEDROW. Okay. Thank you. You're welcome, honey.

Thank you, Katherine. [Applause.]

Commander PEARSON. At this time, ladies, we will have a prayer from our national chaplain.

Chaplain UETTERLING. If a little word of mine may make a life the brighter;

If a little song of mine may make a heart the lighter;
God help me speak the little word and take my bit of singing;
And drop it to some lonely vale to set the echoes ringing.
If a little love of mine may make a life the sweeter;
If a little care of mine may make a friend's the fleeter;
If a lift of mine may ease the burden of another,
God help me love in care and strength to help my toiling brother. Amen.

Commander PEARSON. We are now recessed until Thursday at 9:00 o'clock. That's 9:00 a.m., too.

[Whereupon, the meeting recessed at 3:50 o'clock p.m., July 26 1988.]

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

July 28, 1988

The Thursday Morning Session of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary 66th National Convention convened in the Grand Ballroom of the Loews Anatole Hotel, Dallas, Texas, July 28, 1988, and was called to order at 9:00 o'clock a.m. by Commander Katherine E. Pearson.

Commander KATHERINE E. PEARSON. I now call the Third Session of the National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans Women's Auxiliary to order.

Good morning, everyone. Isn't it a beautiful day in the Big D? Yes. We will now have the prayer by Judy Uetterling, national chaplain. Please rise.

Chaplain UETTERLING. Dear Lord, we thank Thee, Almighty Father, for permitting us to gather here again. Show us how we can serve the needy veterans and their families around us. Help us to understand each burden they bear, to be caring, and whatever their needs, give us the power and strength to help each other. Amen.

Commander PEARSON. Remain standing, please, and we'll have the Pledge by our National Americanism Chairman, Myrtice Vinson.

3rd Jr. Vice-Commander VINSON. Please stand tall like proud Americans, and join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country. Hand salute.

[Pledge of Allegiance.]

Commander PEARSON. You may be seated. We have some announcements here, so I'm going to call on our national adjutant, Maria Tedrow.

Adjutant TEDROW. This is a little out of order, but we'll give the announcements now because we usually want to get out of the room as quickly as possible after this session. have Sue Warner of the Department of Kentucky that would like to make a special presentation, and with your permission, she would like to approach the podium.

Commander PEARSON. Please call her.

Adjutant TEDROW. Sue Warner.

Ms. SUE WARNER. Commander Katherine, from the ladies of the Auxiliary from Kentucky, we present with you with this Kentucky Colonel.

Commander PEARSON. Well, thank you very much. Did you want to read it?

Ms. WARNER. No. I'm too nervous.

Commander PEARSON. Okay. Commonwealth of Kentucky, Wallace G. Wilkinson, Governor:

> To all to whom these presents shall come, greetings. Know ye that Honorable Katherine Pearson, North Mankato, Minnesota, is commissioned a Kentucky Colonel. I hereby confer this honor with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities thereunto appertaining.
>
> In testimonial whereof, I have caused these letters to be made—

And boy, it's hard to read when you're nervous, excited and very honored——

> letters to be made, patented, and the seal of the Commonwealth to be hereunto affixed. Done at Frankfort, the 15th day of July, in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Eight, and in the 197th year of the Commonwealth.

And they have their signatures, the Secretary of State and the Governor.

And I thank you so very much. I'll be very proud to hang this on my wall, and I am now officially the Kentucky Colonel. Thank you. [Applause.]

Oh, dear! Read all of this? Okay. It says:

> An Honorable Order of the Kentucky Colonels, by Wallace G. Wilkinson, Governor.
>
> The highest honor awarded by the State of Kentucky is the Kentucky Colonel. The Colonels are Kentucky's ambassador of good will and fellowship around the world—

And it continues on to describe what a Kentucky Colonel is. And I thank you very much.

Now we have a very special day today in so many different ways, but there's one lady that we have a very special day for, and so would everybody join with me in singing "Happy Birthday" to Myrtice Vinson. Come on, girls. Please rise and give it all you've got now.

[Singing of "Happy Birthday."]

Commander **Pearson**. Thank you, girls.

And we have several other birthday people here, and would they all please stand, everyone who has a birthday today. [Applause.]

And now, happy birthday to anyone who has had a birthday during this national convention. Will you stand, everybody. [Applause.] We want to recognize you all. And many, many happy birthdays more. Look at that big, beautiful bouquet of flowers. You deserve them.

Is Barb Hicks ready to make her presentation? Would you please come forward? Is Lillian Stephenson in here? Would you please join Barbara? This is the first time for this, so Barbara is going to initiate something new and different this year.

NEC 11th District **Barbara Hicks**. On behalf of the SONCA organization, which met yesterday afternoon, Lil and I as members would like to present to the Educational Loan Fund, $100. [Applause.]

Commander **Pearson**. SONCA is the Sponsors of National Commanders Association. So, as the men always have their fun, we figured that the wives and the husbands of the national commanders should join together and have an afternoon of fun together, socializing, and then do our little collecting, and we found a purpose. We recognize the Education Loan for the Auxiliary and the Perpetual Rehabilitation Fund for our parent organization.

Thank you, girls.

And now will the national Sergeant-at-Arms, Charlene Meeks, please bring the pages forward. These wonderful girls have served us all during the convention, and Charlene would like to recognize them at this time. [Applause.]

Isn't that a wonderful-looking group of gals? Aren't we fortunate to have pages like that? [Applause.]

You NECs really look wonderful with your pretty badges.

Charlene.

Ms. **Charlene Meeks**. Morning, everybody. Weren't the color bearers just beautiful at the beginning? They did a beautiful job, and I want to thank them personally. [Applause.]

And Katherine, before I introduce my pages, I would like to give you a special thanks of appreciation for giving me the opportunity to do this again this year, and Maria for all your help.

Okay, pages. As I call your names, will you just step forward as I call your names and where you're from. Starting with the personal pages. First, I'd like to introduce Katherine's pages who have been sitting here diligently every session for the whole time. I'd like to introduce Shirley Larson over on the right; and Katherine's sister, Colleen. [Applause.] Oh, her daughter! Well, look, don't you look young! They've done a wonderful job.

Rose Schilpp's page, Mary Rupe [applause]; Shelia Allred's page and daughter, Tara Allred [applause]; Claudia Roy's page, Beverly Cleveland [applause]; Myrtice Vinson's page, Vicky Greer [applause]; Bonita Newell's page, Judy Lovell [applause]; Judy Uetterling's page, Marg Davies [applause]; and Evelyn Ramirez' page, Vera Davis. [Applause.]

And before I introduce the other pages, the NECs, I'd like to recognize Ruth Nolan. Would you please stand? [Applause.] She's been our photographer and my little helper. And the two ladies from Missouri that helped at the Memorial Service on Sunday, would you please stand, if you're here. [Applause.] Thank you very much.

As I introduce the NECs, I'd like for you to hold your applause. They're all just as special, but we want to get on with this. So I want you to know these ladies have made my job easy. They've made it very nice to me, and I think they've made your meeting look very sharp.

lst District, Margaret R. Lopresti; 2nd District NEC, Dorothy Bednarczyk; 5th District NEC, Virginia Hartman; 6th District NEC, Elsa Rodriguez; 7th District NEC, Fannie Proctor; 8th District NEC, Vernice Eunice; 9th District NEC, Alice Poteat; 10th District NEC, Johann Spalding; 11th District NEC, Barbara Hicks, who was also our national banner bearer; 12th District NEC Lorraine Hanna; 13th District NEC, Martha Gilmer; 14th District NEC, Annette Bain Wilson; 15th District NEC, Marcille Thomas; 17th District NEC, Myrtle Shakespeare; 19th District NEC, Naoma Kalstad; 20th District NEC, Betty Burgman, who is also our national flag bearer; 21st NEC Darlene Conroy.

Ladies, is there anyone I have not introduced that has helped me? You wouldn't believe how hard it was to keep track of these ladies. Give them a big standing round of applause. Let's stand and give them a rising vote of thanks. I think they've done an absolutely marvelous job for you. [Rising applause.]

Did my ladies sitting at the front chairs stand up when they were introduced? Okay. I wanted you to come up here, and I forgot to tell you.

Thank you very much again.

Commander PEARSON. Thank you. Thank you very much. Are you going to retire these gals? All right. You girls have done a very special job. You look so great. Everything worked so well just because you people have brought us in the proper order. I want to thank you. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Ladies, our Sergeant-at-Arms, I'm just wondering if she wasn't Sergeant in the Military. She has done such a great job. I would like for you to give her a rising vote of thanks for all of her efforts during this convention. Thank you, Charlene. [Applause.]

And now we will have the final credentials report, and if there are any units or departments that are not cleared for voting, see Pat Kemper in the rear of the room.

Credentials Chairman MOZELLE PARKER. Madam Commander, I would like, before giving this report, to say I appreciate so much and have enjoyed being here—I would like to thank our national commander for allowing me the privilege of serving as the chairman of this Credentials Committee, and I'd love to say a big thank you to our Adjutant, Maria, and the staff who have just made this job such an easy one.

If your name is called or your unit number is called, please go to the back of the room, as our national commander has already asked you to, and see Pat Kemper in order to be cleared to vote. Michigan Unit 110; New York Unit Number 126; Texas Unit Number 78; Texas Unit Number 106; Texas Unit 186; and Philippines Number 12.

And now, I know you want to know how many we've had. Total units registered, 344; total departments, 43; for a total of 387. Delegates registered, 769; alternates, 84; guests, 177; for a grand total of 1,030. The total units, the votes are: 2,313; total department votes, 43; national officers, chairmen and NEC, 29 votes; and past national commanders, 17 votes; for a grand total of 2,402.

Thank you so much, Madam Commander.

Commander PEARSON. And thank you. Thank you for all the things that you've done each time, coming up for your reports. I know what a job it is.

And now we will have the Nominating Committee's report.

Maria has an announcement.

Adjutant TEDROW. While the Nominating Committee chairman, Kit, is coming up here, I want to tell you that yesterday and today $9,119.14 was collected for the Educational Loan Fund. [Applause.]

Commander PEARSON. Kit, this is it.

Ms. FEIGHNER. As the commander said, this is it. The Nominating Committee met in the Inverness Room, and after interviewing 19 candidates, needless to say, this was a very hard job to select candidates with so many competent people.

As I introduce the members of the Nominating Committee from their districts, I would like to congratulate the districts on their selection of their member to serve on this committee. We had an excellent working committee with every member participating, and I hope that you'll be pleased with our selections.

As I call the names of the members, would they please stand: District 1, Betty Victorine; District 2, Edith Pidgeon; District 3, Alma Tucci; District 4, Betty Slacum; District 5, Fran Miller; District 6, Thelma Williamson; District 7, Delores Balcom; District 8, Virginia Mitchell; District 9, Jane Troutman; District 10, Joyce Meines; District 11, Kit Seal Feighner; District 12, Betty Wimmer; District 13, Adeline Whetsel; District 14, Miriam Kaiser; District 15, Dorothy Van Hoy; District 16, Louise Camp; District 17, Pauline Wright; District 18, Sally Wilton; District 19, Virginia Vyborney; District 20, Louise Rapisand; District 21, Patricia McCoo.

Would you all please stand, and would you as an audience please give them a round of applause. [Applause.]

Past National Commander Loneita Shoemaker was our advisor. And I'm not going to tell you some of the things she advised us of, because she was doing things beyond her duties, I think. But she was a very, very good advisor. And Dorothy Van Hoy served as secretary. Thank you, Dorothy.

After hours of deliberation, and many ballots, the committee has selected the following names to be placed in nomination for the respective offices: National commander, Rose Schilpp from Missouri; National Senior Vice-Commander, Shelia Allred from North Carolina; National 1st Junior Vice-Commander, Myrtice Vinson from Georgia; National 2nd Junior Vice-Commander, Claudia Roy from Vermont; National 3rd Junior Vice-Commander, Bonita Newell from Colorado; National 4th Junior Vice-Commander, Barbara Maldet from Pennsylvania; National Judge Advocate, Lelia McGinnis from California; National Chaplain, Irene Stevens from Florida.

At this time, I want to thank the members of the committee for placing their confidence in me in electing me chairman of this committee. I thought being Adjutant at times, Maria, was a hard job, but, believe me, being Adjutant is a lot easier than serving as the Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

Madam Commander, I would like for our committee to be dismissed.

Commander Pearson. Thank you, Kit. I know that you girls had a very hard task, each and every one of the members on the Nominating Committee. I really thank you for your efforts.

I would like at this time to discharge the Nominating Committee and all other convention committees.

At this time, would all my officers please leave the podium and go back to Your respective districts for the purpose of the elections.

I would like to appoint the following tellers for this election: Nancy Dunday, Virginia Mitchell and Mary Kabler. Will you please serve as tellers for this election?

I just wanted to show them off to you.

Is everybody seated? You have heard the report of the Committee on Nominations. Rose Schilpp has been nominated by the committee for the office of National Commander. Are there any other nominations?

Past National Commander Dorothy Van Hoy. Madam Commander, Past National Commander Dorothy Van Hoy. May I approach your podium?

Commander Pearson. Please do.

Past National Commander Van Hoy. National Commander, national officers, past national commander and delegates: I second the nomination of Rose Schilpp for the office of National Commander. It is indeed a pleasure and an honor for me to stand before you today to give you a brief summary of Rose Marie Schilpp, whose name has been submitted to be our National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans in the year of 1988–89.

Rose is a life member of Ernestine Schumann Heink Unit Number 2, Kansas City, Missouri. Her eligibility is through her husband, Jim. Since joining the Auxiliary in 1968, she has been very active on the local level, serving as unit commander two years, as adjutant two years, and held all other officers and chairmanships. She is presently serving on the Executive Board. She started our nursing home bingo and served as chairman for the past several years.

On the state level, she served as the Missouri Rally chairman. For those of you who do not know, our State Department is just beginning the fifth year. We had department rallies before our department was formed. She served as State Executive Committeewoman for two years.

On the national level, she has served as 9th District Executive Committeewoman alternate two years; as National Executive Committeewoman for two years; on Finance Committee for one year, being Finance chairman one year. She has held the offices of National Chaplain, National 3rd Junior Vice-Commander, National 2nd Junior Vice-Commander, National lst Junior Vice-Commander, and is presently serving as your National Senior Vice-Commander.

These offices have brought honor to Rose, who in turn has brought honor to the offices she has held.

She has shown her love and concern for others as she has represented our National Department to department conventions, fall conferences, midyear conferences and many other occasions.

Rose and her husband, Jim, are dedicated members of the Disabled American Veterans and Auxiliary. They are a family of four children, three daughters and one son, 12 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Their three daughters and eight granddaughters are all members of the Auxiliary.

Rose works as director of Jean's Educational Center, which consists of two preschools and one private kindergarten.

Rose has served our Auxiliary well and with great pride as many of you have witnessed through her travels. Her sincerity, her warmth, her charm, her love and her concern and her previous experiences are our assurances that she will carry on the finest tradition of our great organization, the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, as our National Commander for the coming year. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander **Pearson**. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of National Commander. [Applause.]

Rose Schilpp, will you please stand? Our new National Commander. [Applause.]

Shelia Allred has been nominated by the committee for the office of National Senior Vice. Are there any other nominations?

Ms. **Jane Troutman**. Madam Commander, Jane Troutman, North Carolina. May I approach the podium?

Commander **Pearson**. Please do. I'm not going to relinquish this microphone until I clear up something. Please wait. I'd like to have the adjutant cast that unanimous ballot for Rose for National Commander.

Adjutant **Tedrow**. As National Adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, I hereby cast a unanimous ballot for Rose Schilpp for the office of National Commander. [Applause.]

Commander **Pearson**. Come forward, please. Thank you for waiting.

MS. **Troutman**. On behalf of the State of North Carolina, I am proud to read the seconding speech for Shelia Coley Allred for the office of National Senior Vice-Commander, based on her qualifications and many years of experience as a member and leader of this organization.

Shelia first became a member of the Junior Auxiliary at the age of nine, and has remained active and a productive member since that time. She is a life member of Concord Unit 27, and has held all local and state offices, including department commander for one year and five months.

Shelia has served as judge advocate for the Department of North Carolina for the past nine years. She has been president of the

Past Department Commanders Club for two years, deputy VAVS representative for five years. Shelia was National Executive Committeewoman for the 5th District for two years. She served on various committees during the national conventions she has attended, which has been 12.

She has served on the National Finance Committee for two years, and chairman of the Southern Caucus Breakfast for two years. Shelia has served as National 4th Senior Vice-Commander, National Community Service chairman, National 3rd Junior Commander, National Americanism chairman, National 2nd Junior Vice-Commander, National Legislative chairman, National First Junior Vice-Commander, and National Membership chairman.

She holds membership in the American Legion and the VFW Auxiliaries, to show her support for their purposes. She is a charter member of the American Businesswomen's Association and North Carolina's Council of International Leaders. However, the Disabled American Veterans and Auxiliary are her main priority.

Shelia is active in the community with the State and Local Affairs, a member of the Board of Trustees for the Greater Piedmont Chapter of the National Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Foundation. She's chairman for the annual halloween carnival.

Shelia is a graduate of the Cabarrus County School System and Rowland Technical Institute. She attended the University of North Carolina in Charlotte, where she earned a certificate in early childhood development. Shelia also holds a certificate as a trainer on effective speaking and human relations and instructs as a graduate assistant for Dale Carnegie and Associates.

For Shelia, the DAV is really a family organization. Sheila's mother is a past department commander. Her husband, Jim, served two terms as department commander and National Executive Committeeman for the 9th District. Her daughter, Tara, is a life member and a past Forget-me-Not Queen, and a Miss Teenage of North Carolina, and presently serves as North Carolina Department Junior Activities chairman.

Shelia always fulfills her obligation with honor and dignity. In North Carolina, we're proud of our Carolina girl, and we would appreciate your support to elect our Southern belle for National Senior Vice-Commander. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander **Pearson**. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of National Senior Vice-Commander, Shelia Allred. Now, would the Adjutant please cast a unanimous ballot for Shelia Allred, National Senior Vice-Commander.

Adjutant **Tedrow**. As National Auxiliary Adjutant, I hereby cast a unanimous ballot for Shelia C. Allred for the office of senior national junior vice-commander.

Commander **Pearson**. You got a new title.

Adjutant **Tedrow**. Okay. She just got a new title, Shelia, senior national junior vice-commander.

Commander **Pearson**. How about National Senior Vice-Commander, okay?

Adjutant **Tedrow**. How about that second spot on the ticket? [Laughter and applause.]

Commander **Pearson**. Gosh, I'm glad I'm not the only one!

Now, Shelia, will you please stand, take your bow. [Applause.] Thank you, Shelia.

Myrtice Vinson has been nominated by the committee for the office of National 1st Junior Vice-Commander. Yes.

Ms. **Jane Cordell**. Madam Commander, Jane Cordell, commander, Department of Georgia. May I approach the podium, please?

Commander **Pearson**. Please approach the podium.

Ms. **Cordell**. National Commander Katherine Pearson, past national commanders, officers, and delegates assembled: I deem it a personal honor to have the privilege to second the nomination for Myrtice Vinson for the office of 1st Junior Vice-Commander of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

When I think of a leader for our great organization, I think of a person that possesses many qualities, and I can assure you that Myrtice possesses all those necessary qualifications, knowledge, patience, experience, personality, integrity and ability.

She attained knowledge of the Auxiliary through active participation at local, state and national levels. She is truly an active member of the Auxiliary, dedicated to the purpose of our organization and diligently seeking to accomplish its purpose.

She is eligible for membership in the Auxiliary through her husband, Cleo, a disabled veteran of the Korean Conflict, and through her brother, a combat wounded veteran of the Vietnam Era War.

A life member of Raymond Williams Auxiliary Unit 50 in Macon, Georgia, since 1971, she has held elected and appointed offices in her unit, including unit commander twice.

In the State Department, she has held the office of Chaplain, 2nd Senior Vice-Commander, Senior Vice-Commander and State Commander in '80 and '81. She served as Finance Committee chairman for two years, Constitution and Bylaws Committee chairman for two years, Judge Advocate for two years, and is presently serving her unit and State Department as adjutant treasurer.

On the national level, she has served as Deputy VAVS chairman for one year, National Executive Committeewoman for two years, National Chaplain for two years, and is presently serving as National 3rd Junior Vice-Commander and National Americanism chairman.

Myrtice is a member of the Congregational Baptist Church, where she serves as secretary and a member of the Board of Directors.

She recently retired from the Warner Robbins Air Force Base after serving 22 years of service.

She has completed many courses of professional and managerial, and was a recipient of the very first award of achievement for women in her directorate, an award sponsored by the Federal Women's Program.

If elected, she will bring credit to all her admirers, friends and the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. It is therefore a cherished privilege for me to second the nomination for Myrtice Vinson of Macon, Georgia, for the office of 1st Junior Vice-Commander of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Commander **Pearson**. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of national lst junior vice-commander. The National Adjutant will now cast the unanimous ballot for National lst Junior Vice-Commander, Myrtice Vinson.

Adjutant **Tedrow**. I, National Adjutant for the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, hereby cast a unanimous ballot for Myrtice Vinson, National lst Junior Vice-Commander. [Applause.]

Commander **Pearson**. Myrtice, would you please stand? [Applause.]

Claudia Roy has been nominated by the committee for the office of National 2nd Junior Vice-Commander.

Ms. **Beverly Cleveland**. Madam Commander, Beverly Cleveland, Past Department Commander, Vermont. May I approach the podium?

Commander **Pearson**. Beverly, please do.

Ms. **Cleveland**. Commander Katherine, national officers, past national commanders, delegates and friends: It gives me great pleasure to nominate my dear friend and dedicated and gracious lady, Claudia Roy, for the office of National 2nd Junior Vice-Commander for the year 1988–89.

She's a life member of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary and charter member of John Blake Unit Number 15 of Brattleboro, Vermont since 1972, serving as unit senior vice commander and commander, adjutant, state Executive Committeewoman, Hospital and Membership chairman, presently serving as unit adjutant and alternate State Executive Committeewoman.

On the Department level, Claudia has served as Department Commander for two years, Adjutant for four years, Convention Chairman for four years, and has been the Hospital and Membership chairman, on the Nominating and Constitution and Bylaws Committes and deputy VAVS representative. She currently is serving the Department as chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws.

Claudia was certified as Department VAVS representative in 1984. She's a member of the Executive Committee at the VA Medical Center in White River Junction, Vermont, where she has close to 3,000 volunteer hours.

Claudia has served as National 4th Junior Vice-Commander and Community Service chairman, National 3rd Vice-Commander and Americanism chairman, National 2nd Vice-Commander and Legislative chairman.

Claudia is employed by J. E. Manns, Incorporated of Brattleboro, Vermont as a buyer of intimate apparel, and also receives the support from her employer.

Claudia graduated from Thayer High School, Winchester, New Hampshire. She took classes at Elliott Community Hospital in Keene, New Hampshire.

She is eligible for membership through her father, Claude Goo, a combat wounded veteran of World War II, and her husband, James, veteran of the Korean Conflict. James and Claudia have no children, but they dedicate their lives to this great organization.

The Department of Vermont, District Number 3 and Claudia's unit give her their complete support, as she is Vermont's pride and joy. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander **Pearson**. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of National

2nd Junior Vice-Commander, and I hereby ask the National Adjutant, Maria Tedrow, to cast a unanimous ballot for Claudia Roy, National 2nd Junior Vice-Commander.

Adjutant **Tedrow**. I, Maria Tedrow, as National Adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, do hereby cast a unanimous ballot for Claudia Roy for the office of National 2nd Junior Vice-Commander. [Applause.]

Commander **Pearson**. Claudia, will you please stand? [Applause.]

Bonita Newell has been nominated by the committee for the office of National 3rd Junior Vice-Commander. Are there any other nominations?

Past National Commander **Pauline Wright**. Madam Commander, Pauline Wright, Past National Commander. May I approach your station?

Commander **Pearson**. Please do, Pauline.

Past National Commander **Wright**. Madam Commander Katherine, national officers, past national commanders and delegates assembled here at this convention: It is a great honor to have the privilege of seconding the nomination of Bonny H. Newell as National 3rd Junior Vice-Commander of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary for the year 1988–89.

Bonny has been an active member of her unit since she joined 25 years ago. She is a life member of George G. Klumker Number 22 in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. She is eligible to our organization through her husband, Percy, who served in the Navy during World War II, also her brother who received the Purple Heart Medal during the same war.

She is also a member in good standing but inactive of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Ladies Auxiliary.

Bonny and Percy are both past State commanders of Colorado. They are the parents of four children. One son is an attorney-at-law, specializing in criminal law in Denver, Colorado. The second son is an insurance broker and president of a local union. One daughter is owner and president of a building maintenance company. The second daughter is at mid-level management in a TV cable brokerage firm. Both her daughters are members of the Auxiliary, as well as her five granddaughters.

Bonny has been in sales and management with Merle Norman Cosmetics for over 25 years, secretarial and general office with Continental Airlines.

She has served in all elected offices in her local unit and most chairmanships. On the State department level, she has held all chair elective offices, starting with the 2nd Junior Vice, has held most state chairmanships, and last year she was our Constitution and Bylaws chairman, and is in the second year of a three-year term on the elected Finance Committee. She served as state adjutant, musician, page and conductress.

On the national level, Bonny has served as the alternate National Executive Committeewoman for District Number 11 for two years, Deputy VAVS chairman in 1985 and '86, National VAVS chairman, which is now known as National Representative, for two years. She is now serving as the National 4th Junior Vice-Commander, and that's, of course, with Community Service chairmanship.

Bonny is a most gracious lady, always a smile for everyone she comes in contact with, mixes well and has a kind word for all. She is most knowledgeable of our Auxiliary programs, most willing to serve when and where needed.

I feel the states of the 11th District join with me in saying the Nominating Committee has made a wise choice in selecting Bonita H. Newell to serve as our National 3rd Junior Vice-Commander for the year 1988 and '89. We are asking your support for this election of Bonnie. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander PEARSON. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of National 3rd Junior Vice-Commander, Bonita Newell. Will you please cast the unanimous ballot for Bonita Newell as National 3rd Junior Vice-Commander?

Adjutant TEDROW. As National Auxiliary Adjutant, I, Maria Tedrow, do hereby cast the unanimous ballot for Bonita Newell for the office of National 3rd Vice-Commander. [Applause.]

Commander PEARSON. Bonita, will you please stand. [Applause.] There she is, girls.

Barbara Maldet has been nominated by the committee for the office of National 4th Junior Vice-Commander.

Ms. FRANCES MILLER. Madam Commander, I'm Frances Miller, Department Adjutant for the State of Pennsylvania. May I approach the podium?

Commander PEARSON. Please approach the podium.

Ms. MILLER. National Commander Katherine, national officers, past national commanders, delegates, alternates and guests: In behalf of the State of Pennsylvania, I am happy to have the opportunity of seconding the nomination of Barbara Maldet for National 4th Junior Vice-Commander for 1988–89. Barbara is a life member of West Shore Unit 50, and she became eligible for membership through her husband, Joseph, who is a Navy veteran, and is presently Adjutant for the DAV Department of Pennsylvania.

Barbara and Joe have two sons: Matthew, who is an electrical engineer and is an ensign in the United States Navy; Mark is a junior at the University of Pittsburgh in Johns County.

Barbara has held many offices on the unit, district and department levels, which includes Department Commander, and she is presently serving as Adjutant for her unit.

On department level, she has presently served on the Finance Committee and a ceremonial officer.

Barbara has served on the national level as National Junior Activities chairman for the past two years.

She is a registered nurse and has worked in different areas of the nursing profession. At present she works for the Department of Pennsylvania.

Joe and Barbara are involved in their church activities, but their main involvement is the DAV and DAV Auxiliary. Barbara believes totally in the Auxiliary and the help that the members provide to veterans and their families. She knows the Auxiliary programs and will be a great representative of our organization.

Barbara has the full support of the entire State of Pennsylvania, and I am proud to be able to second her nomination as 4th Junior Vice. [Applause.]

Commander PEARSON. Are there the any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare nominations closed for the office of National 4th Vice-Commander. And will the National Adjutant, Maria Tedrow, please cast the unanimous ballot for Barbara Maldet as our National 4th Junior Vice-Commander.

Adjutant TEDROW. I, Maria Tedrow, National Auxiliary Adjutant, do hereby cast a unanimous ballot for Barbara Maldet, National 4th Junior Vice-Commander. [Applause.]

Commander PEARSON. And now, Barbara, will you please stand. [Applause.]

Irene Stevens has been nominated by the committee for the office of National Chaplain. Are there any other nominations?

Ms. MARJORIE DUFFY. Madam Commander, Marjorie Duffy, Department Adjutant, State of Florida. May I approach your station?

Commander PEARSON. Please approach the podium.

Ms. DUFFY. National Commander Katherine, National Adjutant Maria Tedrow and Assistant Judy, national officers, chairmen, past national commanders, delegates and guests: It is a great honor and privilege for me to be here to second the nomination for Irene Stevens for National Chaplain. Her eligibility for membership in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary is through her husband, Harley P. Stevens, Jr., who served his country during the Korean War. Irene has one son, Harley P. Stevens, III, and two grandchildren.

Irene was instrumental in organizing Ralph Palmer Big Lake Unit 130 in Okeechobee, Florida, and she is a charter member. After going through the chairs, she was Unit 130's third commander, and she has held this office five different times. She has also served Unit 130 as adjutant treasurer several times, and is currently doing this again this year. Needless to say, she has served her unit in all chairmanships.

As you may know, Florida is divided into 13 districts. Irene served as senior vice-commander and commander of District 11 in Florida. She is active in this district and serves whenever and wherever needed.

For the past 11 years, Irene has worked for the Department of Florida. She served on the Audit Committee for two years, and as chairman one year. She served as the department chairman of Legislation, Community Service, and Fund-Raising or Ways and Means for two years. Currently she is serving as a two-year member of the Finance Committee.

In 1982–83, Irene was elected 4th junior vice-commander of the Department of Florida and subsequently served as department 3rd junior vice, 2nd junior vice, and 1st junior vice-commander, and then as senior vice-commander.

Irene was the commander of the Department of Florida for the year 1987–88 and what a great commander she was. She began her year as commander with an exciting slogan, "We will be great in '88," and Florida was great in '88. She was an innovative, courageous leader who served with conviction, determination and enthusiasm, enthusiasm that was so great that it spread like wild fire through the Department of Florida, the department officers, the chairmen, the units and the members.

She traveled 24,000 miles visiting units, districts, many schools of instruction in which she participated as an instructor. She also toured five VA Medical Centers and one VA outpatient clinic.

Several new programs and procedures were introduced under her leadership. Two reports for better understanding the needs of units were designed and implemented. Four meetings for department officers were held for the purposes of better understanding of the department of its programs. Discussions were held in order to share in the planning for the department.

The Department of Florida convention was in June, and Irene was complimented by the national representative who said she felt she had attended a mini national convention.

Irene has attended the last four national conventions, four national fall conferences, and several of the old District 5's meetings. She participated in the national 7th District officers seminar held during the Department of Florida midwinter conference last January.

Irene has served on the National Constitution and Bylaws Committee twice, once as its chairman.

In the world of business, Irene worked nine years as comptroller of the Commercial Bank of Okeechobee and as an accountant for the Department of Corrections.

Before her year as commander of the Department of Florida when she gave all of her time to the Auxiliary, Irene was a dedicated volunteer of hospice and an enthusiastic worker for the Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce.

Irene is devoted to her husband, her God, her country, and the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. She is an understanding, compassionate lady. Last year she sent many personal cards, made telephone calls and visits to those who needed her special words of comfort and encouragement.

I know she would be an outstanding chaplain, and so it is with great pride and pleasure I second the nomination of Irene Stevens for National Chaplain and ask your support. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander PEARSON. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of National Chaplain, and ask the National Adjutant, Maria Tedrow, to cast a unanimous ballot for Irene Stevens as National Chaplain.

Adjutant TEDROW. I, Maria Tedrow, as National Adjutant of this organization, do hereby cast a unanimous ballot for Irene Stevens for the office of National Chaplain. [Applause.]

Commander PEARSON. Will Irene Stevens please stand. [Applause.]

Lelia McGinnis has been nominated by the committee for the office of National Advocate. Are there any other nominations?

Ms. LOUISE AVEY CAMP. Madam Commander, Louise Avey Camp, Past Department Commander, California. May I approach your station?

Commander PEARSON. Please approach the station.

Ms. LOUISE AVEY CAMP. National Commander Katherine, national officers, past national commanders and delegates assembled here: It is with great pride that myself and the State of California seconds the nomination for Lelia McGinnis for national judge advocate. Lee is well qualified for the job after serving as judge advocate in California for five years.

She has served in all elected offices in her unit and in department. She has just completed a year as national deputy VAVS representative and has also served as alternate NEC for two years and NEC for two years for the 16th District; also served as national 4th junior vice commander and National Community Service Chairman.

She is a life member and joined 20 years ago after marrying her veteran. Mac was injured in Guam during the Vietnam War after 20 years in the Air Force. She has six children and eight grandchildren, and I understand she's about to be a great-grandmother.

Lee is one person in California that any of us can go to for help, and we will receive it. She is often called on to give schools of instruction, and her knowledge of our Bylaws is a big help to all of us.

She loves to travel. She loves to talk. She has a very direct way of speaking, but she is tactful and always considerate of those she is dealing with. If she is given a job to do, you can depend on it being done quickly and effectively.

We ask your support for Lee McGinnis for National Judge Advocate. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander **Pearson**. Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed for the office of National Judge Advocate, and ask the National Adjutant, Maria Tedrow, to hereby cast a unanimous ballot for Lelia McGinnis as National Judge Advocate.

Adjutant **Tedrow**. I, Maria Tedrow, National Adjutant, do hereby cast a unanimous ballot for Lelia McGinnis, National Judge Advocate. [Applause.]

Commander **Pearson**. Will Lelia McGinnis please stand. [Applause.]

And now, at this time, I would like to dismiss the tellers. Thank you very much. I know it was hard work for you there, but I do appreciate you taking the position as tellers. Thank you.

And now, Maria has an announcement.

Adjutant **Tedrow**. Not really an announcement, but I do want to recognize my staff that have worked so diligently through this convention. I did so the other day, and then they were dismissed, but for those who were not there, I would again like to introduce those who have been working at the registration and in the office.

First of all, I would like to acknowledge the help and support that I have had from my Assistant Adjutant, Judy Hezlep. [Applause.] And the gals behind the scenes, sitting back here, hoping they weren't going to have to be called upon, I would like to introduce, first of all, Pat Goodwin. Pat, would you stand up [applause]; Sandy Smith [applause]; Bev Barnes [applause]; and Pat Kemper. [Applause.]

Commander **Pearson**. Will the officers to be installed please go to the back of the room. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the installing officer to this podium.

[Whereupon, a short recess was taken.]

Commander **Pearson**. Will you please come to order.

Adjutant TEDROW. If the Past National Commanders and Past National Adjutant would come down here and take their seats down here in front, we would appreciate it.

Commander PEARSON. Will the National Sergeant-at-Arms please escort Dorothy Van Hoy, our installing officer, to the podium. [Applause.] Dorothy.

Past National Commander VAN HOY. The Adjutant will call the roll of officers. As your name is called, the pages will escort them to the right of the podium.

Adjutant TEDROW. National Commander Rose Marie Schilpp [applause]; Senior Vice-Commander Shelia Allred [applause]; 1st Junior Vice-Commander Myrtice Vinson [applause]; 2nd Junior Vice-Commander Claudia Roy [applause]; 3rd Junior Vice-Commander Bonita Newell [applause]; 4th Junior Vice-Commander Barbara Maldet [applause]; Judge Advocate Lelia McGinnis [applause]; Chaplain Irene Stevens. [Applause.]

And now, would the National Sergeant-at-Arms see that the alternates and NECs come forward for the purpose of installation. [Applause.]

Past National Commander Dorothy, these are the newly elected officers for your approval and installation.

Past National Commander VAN HOY. Thank you, National Adjutant Maria. You may be seated.

The fact that you have been selected by the members of this Auxiliary for your respective offices shows that they have confidence in your ability and that they feel assured you will strictly and impartially discharge all duties incumbent upon you.

They confide the welfare of this Auxiliary to your keeping and they are expected at all times to respect your position. Let their confidence, therefore, be fully justified by your fidelity. Let us all remember gratefully the heroism of our veterans whose name we proudly bear.

Realizing fully these responsibilities, are you willing to assume the obligation of your office?

[Response of "I am."]

Past National Commander VAN HOY. Place your right hand over your heart, pronounce your name and repeat after me the obligation of your respective office. I, Dorothy Van Hoy, having been selected as an officer of this Auxiliary do most solemnly pledge myself to faithfully and impartially perform in letter and spirit all the duties of the office I'm about to enter. I promise to obey the lawful orders of my superior officers and exact the obedience of others thereto to the best of my ability and means.

When my successor has been duly selected and installed, I promise to surrender to her all the property of the organization in my possession, all of which I now affirm.

You may lower your hands. Members may be seated.

Members of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, I now present to you your national officers for the year of 1988–89. About face. [Applause.]

I trust that you will aid them in the performance of their duties. With your help, their term of office will be highly successful.

National Sergeant-at-Arms, will you see that the newly elected officers are escorted to their stations.

Rose, it is with great pride that I hand you this gavel to my very best friend of Unit Number 2, Kansas City, Missouri. May you use it wisely through your year and through your travels.

Commander **Schilpp**. Thank you, Dorothy. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Immediate Past Commander **Pearson**. Rose, please come forward. This is exciting.

Commander **Schilpp**. It sure is!

Immediate Past Commander **Pearson**. I do have the very special honor and privilege to pass this National Commander's pin on to you, Rose, and I know that you will represent us so very well, because I know Rose personally. She is dedicated. She has served us very well and represented our national organization while she came up the chairs. We were so very proud of her.

And I'd like to congratulate you on being our National Commander. And good luck to you. [Applause.]

Commander **Schilpp**. Thank you, Katherine. It's great. I feel so honored to have been elected your National Commander. Thank you so very much. You're all very special. [Applause.]

Okay, Katherine. It gives me great pride to pin you with your Past National Commander's pin. This is no sign that you're going to be a has-been. They're only if you let it be. I know you're going to continue being active in our organization. You've had a beautiful year, and we thank you for all. [Applause.]

Immediate Past Commander **Pearson**. Thank you, Rose. Thank you very much. And I will wear it proudly, and I do intend to continue my services to the Disabled American Veterans and their families. Thank you. [Applause.]

Would the NECs like to be escorted back to the room, or just walk back? Oh, the Sergeant-at-Arms says you may just continue on back. And congratulations to these girls, assuming the duties and obligations as NECs. [Applause.]

Will the national Sergeant-at-Arms please present the families of the officers. [Applause.]

And at this time, I'm going to call on each one of our national officers for remarks. And this year, we are going to start with our National Judge Advocate, Lelia McGinnis. Will you please introduce your family when you come up?

Judge Advocate **Lelia McGinnis**. Thank you, Katherine. My husband was unable to be here at this convention, so I brought a couple of very dear friends here that have supported me through the years. One nominated me today, and the other one has been a dear friend for a long time.

But since I do not have any of my own immediate family, I'm going to call all my California family to stand up and be recognized. Ruth and Louise, would you please come forward, and Evelyn. They're all here. [Applause.]

Ruth Demele, Louise Avey Camp and Evelyn Ramirez. I'm very proud to have them as my friends and supporters.

I know that I have a difficult job ahead of me, but it's going to be a challenge and one that I feel very confident that I can fulfill, because I will give it my everything to do it. I will ask for your support, and I'm sure that with all the cooperation the DAV Auxiliary members always give to their department and national officers, that I will have your full support.

I'm here to help you in any way I can, and I'm looking forward to serving with all these lovely officers up here for the coming year.

Thank you very much for electing me. I'm very proud and humble right now, but I'm also very elated and very happy. Thank you. [Applause.]

MEMBER. I've never had the pleasure of having a daughter, so I told Lee I would be her mommy today. [Laughter.] And it is indeed a pleasure to represent and be part of your family, Lee, because we go back a long way. And when I first met her, I was told she was a whack-top sergeant, and it scared the daylights out of me, because I'd just gotten in the organization. Would you believe being scared of something like this? Thank you [Applause.]

Immediate Past Commander **PEARSON**. Thank you and congratulations. And now I call on Irene Stevens, our National Chaplain, for remarks, and to introduce her family, too.

Chaplain **IRENE STEVENS**. National Commander, ladies of this beautiful Auxiliary, I thank you for having the confidence in me. I will do the best I can for you.

I have family with me: My darling husband, Harley. [Applause.] We will be married 35 years July 31st. I'm delighted. [Applause.]

Our department commander, Vivian Voelz, is just like a sister to me. I love her. [Applause.]

And the whole delegation from Florida, stand up and be counted. [Applause.]

And I will be very remiss if I didn't say thank you, Lucille.

Thank you, Commander. I will do the best I can. [Applause.]

Mr. **HARLEY STEVENS**. It's been a long time coming, believe me, and I'm very proud. What can you say? Thank you. God bless you, and I love you.

Ms. **VIVIAN VOELZ**. This was more of a surprise to me than to anyone else. Irene is like a sister. She's a trusted and true friend. We've traveled many, many miles together, and I know Irene will serve her office with honor and dignity.

Irene, I love you. [Applause.]

Immediate Past Commander **PEARSON**. Thank you, and congratulations to you, not only as our national chaplain, but for your anniversary, and many, many more. [Applause.]

And now, our National 4th Junior Vice-Commander, Barbara Maldet. [Applause.]

4th Junior Vice-Commander **BARBARA MALDET**. The first time my husband strongly encouraged—and I'll say strongly encouraged—me to attend an Auxiliary meeting, because I didn't want to go and I didn't think I was going to join that organization, and I went to that meeting, and I found ladies just like you, loving, wonderful ladies who knew exactly what I was going through as the wife of a disabled veteran who possibly had to carry some groceries and had to do more around the house.

And I was committed at that first meeting to this organization. I love every one of you, and I thank you so much for placing your confidence in me. And I promise that I will do my utmost to fulfill that promise that you have placed in me.

I would like to thank the members of the Department of Pennsylvania. They have always supported me. Please stand. [Applause.]

I would also like to thank my adopted parents. When we moved to Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, I had to leave my father and Joe's mother and dad, and the Lord was most gracious in providing Bill and Fran Miller. [Applause.]

Fran is the adjutant for the Department of Pennsylvania for the Auxiliary, and Bill is the treasurer for the DAV Department of Pennsylvania. We have a very close working relationship, and they are always there. And Fran gave my seconding speech, and I thank them so much. [Applause.]

Ms. **MILLER**. Well, we both adopted Barb and Joe and we love them dearly.

4th Junior Vice-Commander **MALDET**. Now, I'd like to introduce to you the love of my life, and the reason that I can do everything, because he always tells me that I can do it, and he's my biggest support, and we've been married 24 years. And I just thank him for everything. My husband, Joe. [Applause.]

Mr. **JOSEPH MALDET**. Thank you. I just want to say to you it's a lot better looking at you than it is in the other room over there. [Laughter.]

Several years back, it was all I could do in order to get around. After 19 surgeries, my wife stuck by me, and she was always by my side. My two sons—we have two sons, Matthew and Mark; one in the United States Navy and one in college. And I tell you what, it's been a trying 24 years for her.

One day I received a letter and they said, "You're a member of the DAV." And I said, "What is that?" That's what my wife said. "I'm not going to that DAV meeting." Well, to say the least, we started out; we went. We started new units in our area. We've steadily grown.

And Barb—one day we went to the State Convention. There was a very special lady there one day, and we sat down and started talking to her: Loneita Shoemaker. And Loneita says, "Barb, you can do you want to." I said, "I've been telling her anything all along."

Loneita always has that little sparkle in her eye, and she says, "Barb, you can do it if you want to."

Well, you know, all of us can do what we want to if we put our minds to it, and if we have friends and we have the backing—we have the great State of Pennsylvania, but we've got a great United States—all of us together, working together for one common cause, to help our veterans and their dependents.

Thank you and God bless you all. [Applause.]

Immediate Past Commander **PEARSON**. Thank you, Barbara, and congratulations to you, too.

And now, our National 3rd Junior Vice, Bonita Newell.

3rd Junior Vice-Commander **NEWELL**. Thank you, Madam Commander. I might say this is part of that dream that I had, you remember, when I dreamed of possibly in my life to become an officer of this great organization. It is coming true again this year, and I have every intention of serving you in a very profound way, sincere, and with all my efforts put into effect to help our veteran and his family.

I'd like at this time to give credit to friends and our Department of Colorado and District Number 17, and also friends of mine, like Eva B. Rodgers and Pauline Wright, that have assisted me and given me lots of strength and knowledge. And Pauline, thank you for the very lovely presentation you gave me today. It made me feel really great. I'm possible not that good, but it sure sounded great. [Laughter.]

Thanks to each and every member here that believes in me.

And I'd like to now present my husband, Percy Newell, who's responsible for me belonging to you.

Mr. PERCY NEWELL. Thank you. I just want to say that she's proud, I'm proud, and I'm sure she will work diligently to make all of you proud. And also I love all of you, and I have a special hug for each and every one of you. Just contact me. Thank you. [Laughter and applause.]

Immediate Past Commander PEARSON. Thank you, Bonita, and congratulations to you, too.

And now we'll have our National 2nd Junior Vice-Commander, Claudia Roy. [Applause.]

2nd Jr. Vice-Commander ROY. Immediate Past National Commander Katherine, congratulations on your year in office. I know that it has been an enjoyment for you, and I'd like to take this opportunity to wish for you and your family success and health for your remaining time. I have enjoyed serving in office with you this past year.

Newly Elected Commander Rose, to you and your new officers, I hope that you have a most successful year, and I am looking forward to serving with you.

I would like to acknowledge the one member of the unit that I belong to—oh, she's standing right there in the aisle—Pam Cleveland belongs to the unit that I do, John Blake Unit 15 in Brattleboro, Vermont, and she has a little gal with her, Pia Brown, who substitutes as my little girl, because I haven't any of my own; Department Commander Nancy Dorey of Vermont; and all the ladies in District 3 who stand, not in front of me, not behind me, but beside me. I love you all. Thank you. [Applause.]

I have two special people on the podium today. One of them is Bev Cleveland, Bev. She has been my personal page. She gave my seconding speech. I also do not have a sister, and this lady is the closest thing that I will ever have to a sister. We've been friends for many years, and she's always standing beside me. Bev, I don't know how I could do it without your support. I love you very much. Thank you for everything.

Ms. CLEVELAND. I love you, too. I just want to say I have four sisters, and she fits right in with all of them. She's one of the gems. [Applause.]

2nd Jr. Vice-Commander ROY. I'd like to say thank you to all the members who have supported me for the last three years, and I hope that I can look forward to your continued support.

And now I'm going to introduce to you the most important person in my life, the reason that I hold membership in this organization. He's more than just my husband. He's my friend and he is always standing beside me. My husband, Jim Roy. [Applause.]

Mr. JAMES ROY. Past National Commander Katherine, national officers for '87 and '88: I congratulate you on a successful year and good luck to all of you in the future. My very best wishes go to the national officers for 1988 and '89. As you all know, Claudia's had my support in the past and will continue to do so. As some of you know, she is known as "Claudia Roy, Vermont's Pride and Joy." She's mine, too. [Applause.]

Immediate Past Commander PEARSON. Thank you, Claudia. Congratulations. And I know from your demonstration this past year, that you are a very excellent national officer.

And now we'll have our National lst Junior Vice-Commander, Myrtice Vinson. [Applause.]

1st Jr. Vice-Commander VINSON. Thank you, Past National Commander Katherine.

Ladies, what a way to celebrate a birthday! [Applause.] I'm highly honored and humble for your confidence in electing me your National lst Junior Vice-Commander of this great organization. I want you to know, first of all, that I'll do the very best that I can do for each of you.

There are a lot of people in my life, but today I want to just make mention of a few. First, I want to tell you something that has really helped me throughout my years, not only as a member of our great organization, but even through my childhood years.

This comes from a very special person in my life, tall, dark and handsome. [Laughter.] He's 83 years old, and he happens to be my father. [Applause.] Really a man of wisdom to me, and maybe I'm prejudiced, but he has always taught us that in order to be successful in anything you venture, be it your family, your marriage, an organization, or what have you, two things must be present. You must touch and you must talk. In touching, you show forth a feeling of love, and in talking, you keep the line of communication open between you.

Today I want to say thank you to all of you for touching my life. You have really touched me today.

I want to at this time recognize the members of my state department, the Department of Georgia. Please stand. [Applause.]

Our great District Number 9, I would like to recognize at this time, and thank them for their support. [Applause.]

I certainly want to thank my personal page, Vicky Greer, who is also a dear, dear friend of mine, for all she's done. We're just like sisters. She is a great gal. You might not know it, but she is sunshine.

Ms. VICKY GREER. Good morning. We in Georgia are delighted and excited about our Georgia peach. I always tell her, when you're good, what can you say? [Laughter and applause.]

1st Jr. Vice-Commander VINSON. I have with me this week one member of my family who's sort of like a daughter to me. She feels she is. That's my niece, Michelle Rutherford. [Applause.]

Ms. MICHELLE RUTHERFORD. I would like to thank you all for electing my aunt to this office. I know she will do her best to fulfill all her duties, I know you all love her as much as we do. and [Applause.]

1st Jr. Vice-Commander VINSON. Thank you.

Immediate Past Commander **Pearson**. Thank you, Myrtice. And I know, too, from your experiences as a national officer this past year, that you will fulfill your duties and we'll be very proud of how you serve. Thank you. And happy birthday one more time, many, many more.

And now I present to you our National Senior Vice-Commander, Shelia Allred. [Applause.]

Senior Vice-Commander **Allred**. Thank you, Commander Katherine, and I want to say it's been a pleasure serving with you this year. You have had an outstanding membership program, outstanding programs all the way through the Auxiliary. I want to commend you on it and your Adjutant, Maria Tedrow, and tell you what a fine leader that you have made our great organization. [Applause.]

It is with great pride that I stand before you today as your National Senior Vice-Commander, and I pledge to you, the members of this organization, to serve you, the membership, to the best of my ability for the upcoming year.

As you know, there's no designated chairmanship that goes with the office of National Senior Vice-Commander, so I will channel my energies to the full support of the new vision for the Auxiliary, for the service that we've set up to reach out to the ladies that are eligible for the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, and don't know that we're there and able to serve and help them and assist them in obtaining benefits, service and things that they need.

I also will channel my energy into the full support of the other national officers and their chairmanships, speaking and supporting you and encouraging these programs wherever I may go in my travels.

Now—I tell you, I know a lot of you have seen me excited before, but I don't think you really have seen me as excited as I have been for the past two days. And I'm going to tell you why in just a minute. But first I've got some special people that's out in the audience that I do want to recognize.

I have a lady out there that has been my best friend ever since I was in high school, and we have come along many roads together. She is like a sister to me, and my husband calls her his wife-in-law. [Laughter.] So, Jane, I want to say thank you. She gave my seconding speech. And I want to tell you that I love you from the bottom of my heart, and thank you for all the love and support that you've given me.

Also I want to thank and ask all the ladies from the Department of North Carolina to please stand. [Applause.] They are a great group to work with. They have stood beside of me all the way and have always been there as an encouragement to me.

I would also like to thank an outstanding district. I think it's the most fantastic district that we've got, and that's because I love each and every one of them. The 9th District, would you please stand up? [Applause.] Thank you so much for your support.

Now for one of the reasons that I'm so excited. When I came to Texas last year on one of my convention assignments, I made the remark to the great Texas delegation down there that I felt like I belonged down here because I had about as many family members that live in Texas as I do in North Carolina. And they are here with me today, and it's with great pleasure that I introduce them to you.

I'm going to start with my nieces and nephews: Debbi, Dionne. This is my niece. She's the oldest of the girls. She lives in Buta outside of Austin here in Texas, and her husband, Bill, who is presently staff sergeant in the United States Air Force. And they've come up to be with me. Thank you. [Applause.]

This is the baby in my brother's family, and her name is Dionne Marie, and she lives in San Antonio. And they sprung a surprise on me yesterday. They came in and they announced their engagement. [Applause.] So this is Dionne Coley and Sol Lopez. [Applause.]

And this is my sister-in-law, Dolores Coley, and she lives in San Antonio, and she's a life member of 27. I meant to tell you that all these girls are life members of my Auxiliary in Concord. But I wish they'd get active down here in San Antonio, too. You girls talk to them.

Now, this is what every little girl ought to have, and that's a big brother like I've got. I'm proud to introduce to you my big brother, who is so very, very special, Don Coley, and he's from San Antonio. [Applause.]

Mr. DON COLEY. She did it again. I wasn't supposed to speak today at all. But actually, she started out as a junior in the DAV when I entered in the Air Force. She's had energies that's carried her for quite a while. Well, I run out of energy after an Air Force career, but she's still going, and I think she is just a dyna-motor, and she will probably have all the energy that this office requires. I thank you. [Applause.]

Senior Vice-Commander ALLRED. And, of course, you know my daughter, Tara, and she's not going to talk, because she couldn't talk last year. She started crying. So she said she wasn't going to try it this year. So I'd like to present her to you again. [Applause.]

And this, too, is the love of my life, and he's big enough to look after me, too, isn't he? [Laughter.] I'd like to present to you my husband, Jim. [Applause.]

Mr. JAMES ALLRED. Again, I would like to say thank you to all of you ladies. I'd like to say a great big thanks on behalf of myself and my daughter, Tara, but for Shelia's family that live here in Texas, we do thank you for letting us come to Texas so we could be with them. I think it's been a little over three to four years since I've seen them, but Shelia's seen them within her travels, and so forth.

But we in North Carolina—you see us wearing buttons that say, "North Carolina Loves Shelia"—we do love Shelia, and we love each and every one of you for putting your confidence in her in the past years. And I do appreciate it. I love each of you. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Immediate Past Commander PEARSON. Thank you, Shelia. And I'll take this opportunity to say you've come a long way, babe. [Laughter.] That was her slogan for our membership, and so I do appreciate all of her efforts and energies that she applied to our membership program this past year.

And now, the gal of our lives, the gal that we're going to have lead us for the coming year, and will you join with me in welcoming to the podium our National Commander, Rose Schilpp. [Applause.]

Commander SCHILPP. Thank you very much. It is now my great pride to introduce my family, which I have a daughter—Jim and I have a daughter. I'm sorry. I take all the credit. Janice Hutchings and her husband, Ed Hutchings, they came in from Kansas City. [Applause.]

I'll tell you one thing. You're lucky they didn't all come. You'd have had to put a larger stage up here. It would have been nice if they could. I'm sure they're with me in thought.

And at this time, I proudly introduce you to my husband, Jim. He's been my rock of Gibraltar, and he's a big one. But I tell you what, he is my reason for being in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, and I present to you now Jim Schilpp, my precious Jim. [Applause.]

Mr. JAMES SCHILPP. Commander Katherine and officers, a little over 40 years ago, I picked a winner and I married her. [Laughter.] I've been serving her about five days a week, and then on Saturday and Sunday, she serves me. [Laughter.] But we are a team. We work together. We accomplish all of our things through our DAV work. And we have had a wonderful life together, and it's just starting again. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mrs. JANICE HUTCHINGS. I just wanted you to know that I have a brother and two sisters who couldn't be here today who wanted to very much. But we're all very proud of you, Mom. And we think she's going to do a great job for you. Thank you. [Applause.]

Commander SCHILPP. Thank you very much. Now, I know this is what you've all been waiting for. Before I get started, I would like to say again, Katherine, thank you for everything you have accomplished this year as our National Commander. I'm looking forward to working with the other national officers. And don't forget, you as members are a part of this, too. I'm looking forward to each of you doing your very best, too.

I'd like to thank National Commander Pearson for her kind words a few minutes ago, and it's been a real pleasure to serve as your Senior Vice-Commander during a year of tremendous progress. You inspired the women of the DAV Auxiliary to reach out for the very best our organization can offer. You left them with a new vision of the Auxiliary and its service mission. And our membership growth during your term stands as a crucial turning point in Auxiliary history.

All of us hope you feel a sense of deep satisfaction and accomplishment in your heart. You've earned that right, Katherine. All of us in this room thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Let's give her a hand again. [Applause.]

Madam Commander, officers, staff of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, National Executive Committee, leaders of our departments and units, and all of you wonderful women at this national convention: I just really can't explain how honored I feel now that you have chosen me to lead our organization. At the same time, I'm very humbled because I know who you women really are. I know the greatness you carry within your souls. Like the veterans in your lives, you've suffered and you've served those disabled American veterans. You've lived through times of trouble, hardship. Like them, you've risen above suffering to devote yourselves to a higher cause, and that is greatness.

Before I launch into my remarks, I'd like to recognize several people who helped me as I followed that course that led me to this podium. Did I say several? Several would hardly cover it. Many, many people of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary and also the Disabled American Veterans have inspired me over the years and have given me much encouragement along the way, advised me when I asked and sometimes even when I didn't.

You, the members attending this convention, have enriched my life. All of you fine people and so many more kept in stride, side by side with me, and I ask you to do the same during the year ahead. We will keep in stride side by side with one another as we march together into the future of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. We'll keep in stride side by side with the Disabled American Veterans in an exciting new partnership.

At this convention, we've outlined a future in which so much is possible. In last year's membership accomplishments, we've already proven just how much we can do. Just look at what you achieved: 29 1/2 percent growth in a single year. It will be difficult to match that, but because we're determined, you can bet we'll do it again and again and again.

Now that we have seen what a committed group of women can accomplish, we can confidently stride out side by side in new areas.

At this convention you've heard a great deal about Auxiliary service programs, programs that will operate independent of, but in partnership with, the Disabled American Veterans. In shaping our new service message, many women devoted so much imagination, insight and planning, and I have great faith in those plans. I have great trust in you as you will carry that message back to your units and departments.

Even more, I'm confident in your ability to carry that vision forward to the families of disabled American veterans across the United States. As these women see what we mean to do for them and their families, a new age will dawn in the Disabled American veterans Auxiliary. Indeed, it's already dawning.

There are women across our land who don't know how to cope as they struggle with the aftermath of a veteran's disability. We'll be there for them. There are women who are grieving because disability took the veterans out of their lives. They don't know what to do or where to turn. But they'll be able to turn to us.

There are so very many women who know nothing at all about the benefits our veterans have earned for their families. We'll give them the information they so desperately need. We'll help them get the DAV claim filing assistance they require.

There are women whose lives have been thrown into chaos and confusion by their veteran's hospitalization. With no one to help them, they felt like they're at their wits' end. But we'll be with them to ease the troubled times.

There are women who need only a shoulder to cry on. Our shoulders are theirs. We know them. We're like them. We've lived through what they're living through. So often these women are us.

We can do so much, and at this convention we've committed ourselves to this vision of reaching out in service. Now, as we return to our homes to transform that bright new vision into practice, no matter where home may be, from Alaska to Puerto Rico, from Maine to Arizona, we'll keep stride side by side, creating the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary's future.

Thank you for electing me National Commander. I will do my best to live up to the trust you have placed in my hands. And I know you will do your best to live up to the trust the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary has placed in yours. Thank you. [Rising applause.]

At this time, I would like for the Missouri delegation to please stand. They have been behind me, supported me, and also my district, the MINK District, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas, would you all please stand. [Applause.] Thank you so very much.

And to Dorothy Van Hoy, thank you for that beautiful speech. I would like a copy. I may need it some time. Thank you.

Immediate Past Commander PEARSON. Thank you, Rose. And before you leave, I have something to present to you. At this time, I want it to be known that I am presenting you this gavel in tradition of Hiram's Harem.

Commander SCHILPP. Oh, thank you.

Immediate Past Commander PEARSON. He said if I didn't, I'd be thrown out of his harem, and there's too many distinguished-looking little gals out there, that I don't want to be thrown out of that harem, so in tradition, I present that gavel to you.

Commander SCHILPP. Thank you. I'm going to be in Hiram's Harem. Thank you.

Immediate Past Commander PEARSON. I have something else that I'd like to present to you. If you recall, last year I was presented with a beautiful American flag. This lady that made the flag for me last year could no longer make flags, and Rose was so disappointed she wouldn't get a flag. But our national 14th District Executive Committeeman's wife, Molly Hilleboe, has seen to it that you get a flag. And I'm very honored to present this to you.

Commander SCHILPP. Thank you so very much. [Applause.]

Immediate Past Commander PEARSON. And now at this time, I'd like to present to you the man of my life, the one that promised me all those perks, to carry my bags, to cook the meals, to clean the house, to plan all my activities when I was home. I present to you, Past National Commander Lyle C. Pearson. [Applause.] I know my perks are coming to an end, but I love you. And I want to say that he carried every promise right up until today, but I don't know about going home. [Laughter.]

Mr. LYLE C. PEARSON. Well, that's the way it goes. Today, why, the coach turns to a pumpkin again. [Laughter.]

I certainly want first to congratulate newly elected Commander Rose Schilpp and her staff of officers. I hope and I know that you're going to have a great year.

I stood before you a year ago, and I said I'll loan you my wife for a year. Well, we did, and we're happy we did that. You have treated her so well during the year, and when she's gone around to your conventions, you have, you know, shown her such great hospitality, and when I went with her, you've extended that hospitality to me. And for that, I thank you all very, very much.

It's been a great year. It's over. The torch has been passed. And now I've come to take her back. [Applause.]

Immediate Past Commander **Pearson**. At this time, Maria, would you like to have a few remarks, our National Adjutant, who has served us so wonderful, she has been such a great lady. She has represented her staff out there in Cold Springs, Kentucky. Without her, I never could have accomplished the things that we accomplished this last year.

And I would love to have my Partner in Service come forward at least to take a bow. [Applause.]

Adjutant **Tedrow**. Thank you. I've been indeed fortunate in the couple of years I have held this position in having Loneita Shoemaker as national commander and Katherine Pearson. Each is beautiful in their own way. Each are individuals. That's what makes it so great. And to all of you, I want to say sincerely that you have been great in your support to me, to my staff, to Judy.

The first year at the Grand Ball, I forgot that we had an immediate past national commander, Betty Wimmer. And last year I couldn't remember Katherine's name. [Laughter.] And yesterday I forgot to introduce Kit Seal.

Now, I'm still not done with this convention, so I don't know what's going to happen this evening.

But what I would like to say is, this is a great gal. It's been a privilege for me to know her. I told her this morning when no one was around, and I meant it, that anyone that doesn't take the time to know Katherine Pearson is missing something.

And to all of you again, thank you for your support. I hope it continues. I love you all. [Applause.]

Immediate Past Commander **Pearson**. Thank you, Maria. Thank you for those kind words.

And now will the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the families of our national officers to the rear of the room. [Applause.]

Yes, Mary Beth.

Past National Commander **Schulze**. Katherine, it gives me a great deal of pleasure, on behalf of the Past National Commanders, to congratulate you on a very fine convention. I'm especially pleased because many of the—maybe some of the new people don't know that the year that I was National Commander, Lyle Pearson was the National Commander for the men. So I am doubly pleased to be the one to present you with a rose and welcome you into our past commanders group.

Immediate Past Commander **Pearson**. Thank you so much. I shall be very proud to join the National Commanders group. Thank you so much. And thank you for accepting me.

Member. We're extremely proud to have you here in Texas, as you go out. You've been a wonderful commander. Thank you very much.

Immediate Past Commander **Pearson**. Well, thank you. Thank you very much.

Past National Commander **Mildred Taylor**. Welcome.

Immediate Past Commander **Pearson**. Thank you, Mildred Taylor.

Past National Commander **Pauline Wright**. Katherine, we're most happy to have you join us. You have done a wonderful job this year and brought us all these members, and we're very happy to have you with us.

Immediate Past Commander **PEARSON**. Thank you, Pauline Wright, Past National Commander.

Past National Commander **NELDA WILSON**. Congratulations, Katherine, for a job well done.

Immediate Past Commander **PEARSON**. Thank you, Nelda Wilson.

Past National Commander **BETTY HALL**. Betty Hall from Texas, and we're so happy to have you all here And Katherine, your convention, you did a lovely job this year.

Immediate Past Commander **PEARSON**. Thank you.

MEMBER. Katherine, I'm sorry I missed you in Kansas City. I was in the great State of Texas at the time, but my thoughts were with you. And thanks for being with us this year.

Immediate Past Commander **PEARSON**. Thank you.

Past National Commander **FLORENCE DALEY**. Katherine, I'm sorry I missed you on our travels, but I think you've done one heck of a job and congratulations. Kit had to leave, so that's hers. Welcome to our organization.

Immediate Past Commander **PEARSON**. Thank you. Thank you, Florence Daley and Kit Feighner.

Adjutant **TEDROW**. And Katherine, I'd like to present you with this rose as a National Commander, and also the thorn that's been in your side all year long. [Laughter.]

Immediate Past Commander **PEARSON**. I like that kind of thorn, I tell you. Thank you.

Past National Commander **LUCILLE O. MCCARTHY**. I would like to give you this rose; however, the thorns all came from Maria, not me. [Laughter.]

Immediate Past Commander **PEARSON**. Thank you, Lucille.

MEMBER. Katherine, dear, it's been a pleasure serving you this year. You've been most beautiful. We love you, and it's a pleasure and a joy to welcome you with us.

Immediate Past Commander **PEARSON**. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Past National Commander **THELMA WILLIAMSON**. Katherine, I want to congratulate you on a great year. You have been terrific. Now we're glad to have you come and join the club with us.

Immediate Past Commander **PEARSON**. Thank you, Thelma.

Past National Commander **SALLY WILTON**. Katherine, these PNCs up here are getting a little bit out of hand, and it's time we had a new addition, and I think you're going to be the right one just to fit in with us.

Immediate Past Commander **PEARSON**. Thank you, Sally.

Past National Commander **FLORENCE VALGARDSON**. Katherine, it's been a delight to be with you this year, and I was most happy that she gave me the opportunity of installing her last year. She's a very, very special lady.

Immediate Past Commander **PEARSON**. Thank you, Florence. Thank you so much.

Past National Commander **VALGARDSON**. We're glad you're joining us.

Immediate Past Commander **PEARSON**. I'm looking forward to it.

Past National Commander **Betty J. Wimmer**. Katherine, although this rose may be small in size, we've been very proud to be your partner this year. You've done an excellent job.

Immediate Past Commander **Pearson**. Thank you, Betty.

Past National Commander **Loneita Shoemaker**. Katherine, you have done an outstanding job as our leader this year, and you are a very gracious lady, and I'm glad you are joining our organization known as the Past National Commanders Club.

Immediate Past Commander **Pearson**. Thank you, Loneita. Thank you so much.

Past National Commander **Van Hoy**. Looks like I'm bringing up the last, but I want you to know that I echo all the things that everyone has said, and we certainly welcome you to our club. You have had a wonderful year and a wonderful convention. Thank you.

Immediate Past Commander **Pearson**. Thank you, Dorothy. [Applause.] Thanks to each one of you. Each one of you have laid such a great foundation for this organization, that I feel very proud to join you as past national commander. Thank you. These roses are beautiful. [Applause.]

For the purpose of closing this convention, would the newly elected officers please sit back on the chairs just behind me, and will the—you have a choice—will the officers for this convention please take your stations.

And now I'd like to make a few announcements here before we close.

[Announcements.]

Adjutant **Tedrow**. At this time, I would like to recognize the gal who's been pounding the 88 keys over there and playing every time we've asked her to play. Carolyn Cox from Arkansas. Carolyn, would you stand, please? [Applause.]

And don't forget our fall conference. It's the last weekend in September. Hope to see a lot of you there.

Immediate Past Commander **Pearson**. At this time, I would like to call on our National Chaplain, Judy Uetterling for the prayer.

Immediate Past Chaplain **Uetterling**. Ladies, let's hold hands because this will be the last time for a while, before we meet again.

Lord, help me live from day to day
In such a self-forgetful way
That even when I kneel to pray
My prayers shall be for others.
Help me in all the work I do
To ever be sinless and true,
And to know that all I do for You
Must needs be done for others.
Let self be sacrificed and slain
And buried deep and all in vain
My efforts be to raise again
Unless to live for others.
And when my work on earth is done
And my new work in heaven's begun,
May I've forged the crown I've won
While thinking still of others.
Others, Lord, yes, others.

Let this my motto be.
Help me to live for others
That I may live like Thee. Amen,

Immediate Past Commander PEARSON. Before we retire the colors, I would like to just say another thank you to our national convention chairman, Dovey Hawkins; and to all of those girls who gave us such a beautiful convention. I thank each and every one of you.

And let me again thank all of these officers that have served, and the chairmen. Thank you again for serving this past year. And may all of you serve your same dedication to this coming year and making this organization the greatest, always the greatest. Keep up your good work. Thank you.

And now, Sergeant-at-Arms, would you retire the colors, please. [Applause.]

Thank you so much, and your girls. Beautiful!

And now I bring down the gavel and adjourn this National Convention. [Applause.]

[Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 12 o'clock noon, July 28, 1988.]

○